# Saipan Tribune Saipan Tribune THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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### **OPINION METER** This week's poll:

Do you have a Facebook account?

Let your voice be heard! www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

### INSIDE

### **BUSINESS**



Delta is in the top 50 of 'World's Most Admired Companies.'

### WORLD



Crimeans overwhelmingly vote to leave Ukraine and join Russia.

➤ PAGE 16



A possibility that's being considered is one of the Malaysian pilots committed suicide. **PAGE 17** 

Fitial's arrest warrant nullified

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

uperior Court Associate Judge David A. Wise-



man quashed yesterday the arrest warrant he issued against former governor Benigno R. Fitial and directed him to voluntarily appear in Superior Court on April 30, 2014, at 1:30pm.

will be required to justify any absences on that date.

The requirements include a notice explaining why he is unable to appear,

Wiseman said that if the former gover- a doctor's note signed in presence of a nor fails to appear at the April 30 hearing notary public, and the notarization itself due to his ongoing medical treatment, he authenticated by the U.S. Embassy. Only then will Wiseman consider excusing any ordered appearance to be replaced

See FITIAL on Page 4

### Rota's 4-month supply woes end; mayor says crisis 'not really over'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

many store shelves now >> Stores to replenish almost empty, a major empty shelves as

shipment of food and other supplies finally reached Rota shores

a barge to enter the West Harbor. Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola said, however, are over 30 containers, and some of those that the crisis is "not really over" until the

island has a "proper port."

Staff of Rota stores interviewed yesterday said they could start replenishing After four months of waiting and with their shelves as early as today or tomor-

row when containers full of merchandisefrom rice to cooking oil, sodas, butane gas, and chlorine, among

yesterday when sea conditions allowed other things—are offloaded and cleared. "The shipment is now on Rota. There

See ROTA on Page 4

### 'Muña stalled CFO hiring for 2 years'

early as today

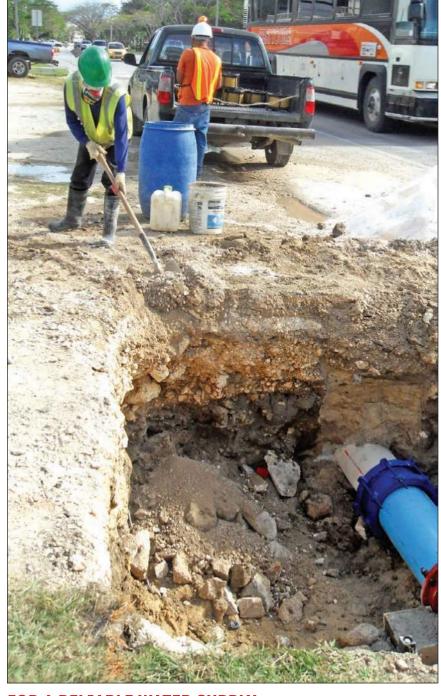
By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com

It's been two years since the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. began looking for a permanent chief financial officer but the effort has been stalled because interim CEO Esther Muña refuses to hire one, according to board chair Joa-

quin Torres

"The recruitment has been ongoing for two years already. By the CEO's own admission, there are a number of applicants who filed applications, most of whom meet the minimum qualification for the position. At least 32 applications have been submitted to

See MUNA on Page 4



### FOR A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY

A USA Fanter worker shovels dirt back to a trench along Beach Road yesterday as part of the CNMI Water Task Force's ongoing water leak detection, repair, and replacement of water lines, valves, and hydrants project funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Fieldwork began in October and will continue until June, a part of ongoing effort to provide reliable 24-hour water service to all of Saipan, the Water Task

Frances Quichocho faints before start of trial. PAGE 2 **Boating Safety truck sinks at marina. PAGE 3** 



# PICKS OF THE WEEK

**2** TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

### Local

### Frances Quichocho faints shortly before start of trial

ferdie\_delator REPORTER

Attorney Colin Thompson's cross-examination of Frances Quichocho failed to push through yesterday after she fainted shortly before the ongoing trial was supposed to start in federal court.

Medics arrived and brought Frances in an ambulance to the

This prompted U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to excuse the jurors and order them to return today, Tuesday, for the continuation of the trial. Manglona only told the jurors that they are going to take another recess due to an unexpected event.

Saipan Tribune learned that while Manglona was discussing housekeeping matters with the lawyers of both plaintiffs and defense, Frances went to the restroom located on the second floor of the Horiguchi Building. After

using the restroom, Frances walked back to the elevator and then collapsed right before the elevator's entrance.

When the elevator's door opened, a court staff came out and was surprised to see Frances lying sideways on the carpeted floor. The staff called for security officers and an ambulance was then called.

As one security officer attended Frances, the other security officer went inside the courtroom and informed Frances' husband, attorney Ramon Quichocho, that his wife had fainted.

Manglona ordered recess at 8:32am.

An ambulance and a fire truck arrived at the Horiguchi Building. Medics put Frances on a stretcher and transported her to the hospital at about 8:50am.

Manglona reconvened at 8:55am.

Quichocho's counsel, Michael Dotts, apprised the court about Frances' condition and



Medics aboard a firetruck and an ambulance respond to the Horiguchi Building where Frances Quichocho collapsed shortly before the start of the continuation of her cross-examination in federal court yesterday morning. The trial, which began Feb. 3, was delayed again due to the incident.

asked that the trial be postponed to today, Tuesday.

One of Jung Ja Kim's counsel, Robert T. Torres, said he has never experienced such a thing before and that he and fellowcounsel Thompson have been discussing options.

Torres said they can't put their rebuttal witness on the stand unless they are done cross-examining Frances.

Torres, however, stated that the parties will continue to work on jury instructions.

Manglona asked the parties to

submit their stipulated instructions, as well as their disputed instructions for the court's review. Dotts said the parties will also work on the admission of certain exhibits.

Manglona said that if Frances can't continue with her testimony today, she will look at other options. She noted that the jury trial began Feb. 3 and it's already March 17.

Manglona called the jurors in at 9:05am and asked them to come back today for the continuation of the trial.

Frances already failed to show up for the continuation of her cross-examination on Thursday. This prompted Manglona to reschedule the trial for Friday. Ramon Quichocho also didn't appear in court that day as he reportedly brought his wife to the hospital.

On Friday, Thompson's cross-examination of Frances lasted less than two hours as Frances asked to be excused, saving she's not feeling well. This prompted the judge to excuse her and order her to return yesterday, Monday.

Kim is suing the Quichochos for racketeering and other claims. The Quichochos also filed a counterclaim against Kim.

### CNMI lawmakers back permanent placement of missiles in Guam

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Some CNMI lawmakers expressed support yesterday to a Guam legislative resolution asking U.S. President Barack Obama and Congress to permanently place a missile defense system in Guam to protect U.S. island territories, neighboring Micronesian islands, and the Asia-Pacific region.

"I respect Guam for adopting the resolution. I agree that a permanent missile defense system should be placed there since Guam has existing military bases and it only makes sense," CNMI Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) told Saipan Tribune.

Torres said the Senate will discuss this resolution during their session on Thursday.

Guam Sen. Tina Rose Muna Barnes transmitted yesterday to the CNMI Legislature a copy of Resolution 186-32, adopted by the Guam Legislature on Feb. 1.

Resolution 186-32 is "respectfully requesting President Barack Obama, Department of Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, and the United States Congress to permanently station a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system and a Patriot Missile Defense System [in] Guam for the protection of the people of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the neighboring islands throughout Micronesia, and the Asia-Pacific region.'

CNMI Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), chairman of the House Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations, said this "should have been done a long time" ago.

"It's about time. The safety and well-being of our people should have been their utmost priority," Conner said.

THAAD system is the world's newest land-based strategic missile defense system with the capability to intercept and destroy long-range ballistic missiles inside or outside the atmosphere during its final or terminal phase of flight.

On April 4, 2013, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel signed an order to deploy a THAAD system to Guam in response to North Korea's threats of launching a nuclear, ballistic missile attack targeting Guam.

Guam senators said a 2012 assessment report states that a THAAD system would be best suited to protect military bases in Guam and Japan from a North Korean attack.

A Patriot Missile Defense System, meanwhile, is a mobile, ground-based interceptor with sites throughout the globe that targets UAV, cruise missiles, and short-range ballistic missiles.

Guam senators believe that the island's strategic location contributes to the U.S. national defense posture in the Asia-Pacific region.

Guam is home to some 160,000 U.S. citizens and major military base installations of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air

Throughout the year, Guam hosts a number of joint training operations and exercises for the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and the Navy, indicative of Guam being one of the nation's most strategic forward-operating bases in the Asia-Pacific region.

Guam senators believe that the permanent installation of a missile defense system in Guam "would effectively serve to deter aggression and sustain peace in the region."

The Guam Legislature also sent a copy of Resolution 279-32 to the CNMI House and Senate.

The second resolution, adopted by the Guam Legislature also on Feb. 1, promotes affordable and alternative regional transportation between Guam and the CNMI by means of a ferry service or similar vessels.



SOLACE ON THE LAKE

One of Saipan's hidden treasures, Lake Susupe becomes a safe haven for a lone fisherman.

### Guam wife accused of murder-for-hire plot

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A Guam woman is charged with offering someone land, cash, and a sport utility vehicle to poison her husband.

Myrna Castro Evans was charged Thursday with solicitation to commit aggravated murder.

According to court documents, Evans told one of her employees at an unidentified

business, "I want you to kill my husband," the Pacific Daily News reported. The documents claim she offered him "land, cash, and an FJ Cruiser" if he poisoned her husband.

The man agreed, but then went to the husband and told him about the plot, the court documents said. The husband told the employee to continue pretending to carry out the plan in an attempt to "gather more evidence.'

When the man met with Evans on March 11, he secretly recorded the conversation with his cellphone as they allegedly discussed poisoning the husband that evening. According to the court documents, when police later confronted Evans, she immediately replied, "Is my husband OK?"

Evans was ordered held on \$250,000 cash bail. Defense attorney Phillip Torres declined to comment on the allegations, but he told the Associated Press he plans to file a bail-reduction motion on Monday.

\$300,000 life insurance policy.

In arguing for the bail amount, assistant attorney general Gabrielle Rossi said: "Mr. Evans' life is in extreme danger."

Prosecutors said the husband had recently taken out a

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### Rota clinic warned for improper waste disposal at dump

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has warned the Rota Health Center for improperly dumping its biohazard waste at the open dump on the island, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board.

CHCC board vice chair Pete Dela Cruz, who is the Rota representative on the board, said this improper disposal of the clinic's garbage has been going on for quite some time now.

"For a long period of time, the RHC has been disposing of these items at the public dump and when EPA found out, they were advised to stop this practice immediately as it is an environmental concern as well as hazardous should someone step on it. It could also lead to an expensive lawsuit for the corporation," Dela Cruz said.

He said the clinic has been advising the corporation of the need to repair or replace its autoclave so it could properly dispose of syringes and other sharp implements but this has not been acted upon to date.

An autoclave is a device **X-ray machine** used to sterilize equipment and Dela Cruz also disclosed the

supplies by subjecting them to

At last week's board meeting, interim CEO Esther Muña reported that the improper waste disposal at RHC was raised to the management's attention the week before March 12. Muña said the corporation's infection control unit has been directed to work with RHC to address this concern. In the meantime, all biohazard waste at RHC are being temporarily stored until a solution is identified.

Dela Cruz emphasized yesterday the need to take immediate corrective measures to ensure that RHC is equipped to

"Currently, RHC is storing syringes/sharp blades needing proper disposal at a secure place and it is piling," he said, describing the problem as a serious matter that past and current managements have failed

"I understand that CHCC is taking this situation as urgent and that the RFP is now being processed for immediate purchase [of an autoclave]," said Dela Cruz.

### Habitual offender allegedly threatens to go on rampage By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Habitual offender George C. Taitano allegedly threw rocks at a store in Dandan over the weekend, then went home where he broke things and threatened to kill everyone, including federal court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Taitano, 39, came out from hiding inside the bathtub at his house and laughed hysterically when a police officer found him, according to a police report.

At yesterday's bail hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho increased Taitano's original bail of \$5,500 cash to \$20,000 cash.

Camacho directed Taitano to stay away from the alleged victims as well as Judge Manglona.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that the Department of Public Safety received a call on Friday at 7:07pm about a disturbance in progress at Jin Li Store in Dandan

A man, later identified via the store's surveillance camera as Taitano, had gone to the store armed with three rocks, Kintoki said.

Taitano threw one rock at the main entrance glass door and entered the establishment. He went to the cashier's booth and threw more rocks at the female cashier. The cashier was almost hit, but the rocks shattered the glass door of the cigarette rack and four sunglasses.

Taitano also threw rocks at the cashier's two co-workers

high-pressure saturated steam.

properly dispose of its waste.

who were standing by the freezers. The co-workers were not hit, but the rocks damaged one case of beer. Customers pan-

icked and ran outside. Taitano then went outside, made a shooting gesture, and walked away.

On Saturday at 12:06am, police officers responded to the Taitano family's house in San Vicente in response to a disturbance report.

Police learned that Taitano had threatened to kill his mother, some family members, and everyone else, saying he feels he is unwanted by the family. He also allegedly threatened to kill Manglona.

When officers arrived at the tin house, there was no light and they saw several broken household items scattered on the ground by the main door. Inside the house, broken glass and clothes were scattered on

One officer found Taitano hiding in the bathtub and handcuffed him.

Taitano kept laughing, suddenly became quiet, then began laughing hysterically.

Taitano's family member disclosed to police that the defendant has been breaking everything in the house since last month.

There are previous reports that Taitano suffers from mental problems.

The federal court revoked Taitano's supervised release several times for using "ice" and marijuana while on probation.

"dilapidated" condition of the no avail. center's x-ray machine.

He said that "I have been barking on this issue" since he began serving on the board, to

Muña assured Dela Cruz, however, that RHC's need for an x-ray machine will be prioritized with the expected arrival Guam Naval Hospital.

Muña even promised that if in case an x-ray machine is not among the equipment the mili-

of hospital equipment from the tary hospital will bring in, this will be included on the priority listing of equipment to be procured under the \$1.7 million funds secured from CIP monies.



A vehicle of the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section sinks in the waters of Smiling Cove Marina after a rescue boat backed down and hit a trailer Saturday afternoon.

### Boating Safety truck sinks at Smiling Cove Marina

A vehicle of the Department of BSS Zodiac II vessel. Public Safety's Boating Safety Section sank in the waters of Smiling Cove Marina when a rescue boat backed down and hit a trailer Saturday afternoon.

No injuries were reported in the accident that was reported to DPS Central Saturday at 4:10pm, according to Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. yesterday.

Blas said preliminary investigation conducted by BSS investigator Norbert Pua showed that the pickup truck with license plate GOVT 41-73 backed down on the launch ramp with the trailer for the

Zodiac II was to be loaded onto the trailer. Zodiac II maneuvered onto the trailer but was misaligned so it needed to back off the trailer to realign.

As Zodiac II reversed out of the trailer, it somehow got snarled in the line to the trailer. Zodiac II dragged the trailer along with the government vehicle into the water.

Blas said that Fire Division rescue personnel hooked up the truck and removed it from the lagoon at 5pm that same day.

Blas said no oil leak was re-

Blas said this incident is still under investigation by BSS as well as the Traffic Section.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

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**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING** Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby

### gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, March 21, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor of the Captain George Fleming Building, at the Port of Saipan **AGENDA**

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- Adoption of Agenda Adoption of Minutes (January 31, 2014)
- CORRESPONDENCES COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - Financial Affairs Committee
- Seaport Facilities Committee 4. Personnel Affairs Committee Airport Facilities Committee Ad-Hoc Committee on SIA Master Concession
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT OLD BUSINESS
  - Personnel Matter: Employment Contract Bridge Investment Group, LLC.

- **NEW BUSINESS** Successive Master Concession
  - Whether or not to award extension of concession contract The Length of the concession contract
- Authorize public hearing on the new concession contract Personnel: Job Vacancy Announcement and Reclassifications
- Tasi Tours/Pacific Subsea's Request
- Tandem Skydive Tinian Harbor Assessment Study (Cost share) Long Line Fishing Study
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT **EXECUTIVE SESSION/Legal Counsel Report**
- ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony

/s/THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ Acting Chairman, Board of Directors March 14, 2014

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on March 20, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before March 20.

### THIS WILL BE THE **ONLY NOTIFICATION** IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than March 20. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

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### 2 criminal cases vs alleged HK fugitive dismissed | Hawaii, Alaska, territories team up on Jones Act

for Zeng.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has dismissed two criminal cases filed against alleged Hong Kong fugitive and property mogul Wei Zeng.

Manglona dismissed without prejudice on Friday the indictment and complaint against Zeng after the U.S. government asked for the dismissal.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Zeng, did not oppose the motion.

CHCC, yet until now she had

not complied with the mandate

Of the 32 applicants, he said

three are from the island, all of

whom were not chosen for the

applicants who have applied for

the job but she refused to hire

them. These three meet the edu-

cation requirements but not the

work experience in healthcare

finance. The person she plans

to hire from Hawaii allegedly

possesses the requisite work ex-

perience but not the education

With these revelations, Torres

"It does not make a lot of

says the current situation does

sense since a majority of the 32

applicants for the position meet

the minimum qualification re-

quirement for the position. We

are now experiencing devastat-

ing consequences as a result of

the CEO's continuing failure to

comply with Public Law 16-51.

requirement," added Torres.

not make sense.

"We have at least three local

of the law," said Torres.

MUÑA

From Page 1

Manglona ordered Zeng's release from the two criminal cases.

However, Zeng remains in custody under a detention order in a separate extradition matter.

Last month, Zeng, also known as Zhiqian Liu, pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with the use of false document and misuse of a passport.

The U.S. government also filed a criminal complaint, charging him with lying to a federal agency. He also pleaded

Also, a CFO is needed not only

to maximize revenue but also

to prevent waste and abuse of

Muña held the position of

COO/CFO from Oct. 12, 2012,

to April 29, 2013. Cora Ada

then was named acting CFO on

Official correspondence

Torres also released yesterday

the official correspondence the

board received from Ada indi-

cating her decision to step down

from the acting position, bely-

ing Muña's assertion that the

Saipan Tribune reported last

week Ada's decision to step

down as acting CFO for the cor-

poration, as confirmed by Tor-

res. However, Muña dispelled

the information on Monday as

Documents obtained from

the board indicated that board

members received an email

from Ada on March 10 inform-

of these [financial] reports, I

would like to advise that I have

"Chair, with the submission

ing trustees of her decision.

funds," said Torres.

April 30, 2013.

report is untrue.

released

not guilty to the charge. Last month, Manglona issued an order that denied bail

Zeng arrived at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport last Jan. 16 from Shanghai, China. He allegedly used a different identity to try to enter

The Hong Kong government is seeking Zeng's extradition due to a pending case against him. According to the U.S.

discussed my intent to step

down as an interim CFO [with]

our CEO. I will continue and

finish up the budget for [fiscal

year] 2015 due on April, 2014,

to [Office of Management and

Budget] and ultimately con-

tinue to assist and fully set our

federal programs into the cor-

poration and my last day as an

interim CFO would be on April

30, 2014," Ada's email to Tor-

res stated. Muña was copy-fur-

government, the Hong Kong District Court issued a warrant for Zeng's arrest after he allegedly bribed a Hong Kong bank official with HK 2.3 million (\$300,000) in October 2010.

The cash was allegedly a reward for the bank official's help in a multi-million Hong Kong dollar loan extension application and for giving favorable credit information relating to Zeng's two companies. (Ferdie de la Torre)

"Cora has been acting CFO for almost a year now. I believe she cannot continue to serve in an acting capacity because she does not meet the minimum qualification for the job. I want people to know, however, that ed and hardworking employee The continuing failure of the CEO to hire a CFO that meets the minimum qualifications has

He said that once the results of the financial audit for CHCC is finalized and made public, "then you will understand where I am coming from."

quences," said Torres. "[N]o monthly financial

statements have been issued as required by law for almost the entire period of fiscal year 2013; CHCC has incurred a reported \$6 million deficit for fiscal year 2013. We have \$17 million reported accounts receivable which have not been collected, and CHCC has financial records that do not meet accounting and recordkeeping standards," disclosed Torres.

Cora is one of the most dedicatof the corporation. She is always there when you need her. resulted in undesirable conse-

### nished with the email. The March 10 email from Ada enclosed the revised financial report for fiscal year 2013

and the draft audit from Deloitte and Touche. In a Marianas Variety article on Monday, Muña denied that Ada is stepping down as CFO,

adding that Ada will remain as interim finance chief until a permanent one is hired. Torres pointed out yesterday that it was clear in Ada's email that she's stepping down as act-

signing" as an employee of the corporation. He reiterated the reasons why the corporation needs to get a

ing finance chief, and not "re-

From Page 1

merchandises may have already expired or nearing expiration because some had been in those containers since four months ago," Mendiola told Saipan Tribune in a phone interview.

This comes a few days after the 30-day emergency declaration for Rota, issued on Feb. 14, expired during the weekend.

Prior to the barge's entry to the West Harbor yesterday, the last shipment to Rota was around Nov. 18, officials said.

The barge that regularly carries supplies to Rota was unable to enter the West Harbor because of rough sea conditions since November. Some stores resorted to bringing in supplies via air freight, causing prices to temporarily go up by 10 percent to 50 percent.

"The four months is the longest time we haven't had a shipment. Prior to that, the shipment wouldn't arrive for only a little over two months or so. Fortunately, the weather and the sea allowed the barge to come in but the concerns remain," Mendiola said, adding that Gov. Eloy S. Inos "played a role in communicating with Saipan Shipping"

and for the barge to finally enter West Harbor.

Mendiola said Rota is fortunate that it still hadn't reached the point wherein residents will be asked to boil their water supply because chlorine used for water treatment was still available, although the supply was already "low."

Esperanza Castro, purchaser at Harvest Market, one of the biggest retailers on Rota, said they're "happy" the shipment arrived because their store shelves are "almost empty."

She said Harvest Market has "six to seven" 20-ft. containers of food and other supplies, which can be offloaded and cleared as early as today.

Castro said their stores didn't have much to sell even during the weekend's fiesta because the shipment had not arrived at the time.

Previously, because Harvest Market was bringing in some basic commodities via plane, they had to raise the prices of some items only to cover the added shipment cost. For example, their 1-quart milk that used to sell for \$2.99 became \$4.05 because of the air freight rate.

"When we start selling the ones from the barge, we will be back to the old, regular prices,"

she said.

permanent CFO.

Lucky Market and Anne's Convenient Store, also major retailers on Rota, separately said yesterday they could start selling the newly-arrived merchandises this week.

The Rota mayor said the crisis is "not really over" until there's a permanent solution to the sea transportation problem.

He said every time the water is rough, expect the barge not to enter the West Harbor because it has not been repaired. The West Harbor repair, he said, could cost at least \$16 million.

Another possible longer-term solution, he said, is to allow the East Harbor to accept smaller vessels every time there is a problem entering the West Harbor.

This way, he said, there won't be a need to issue an emergency declaration every time there is problem with the West Harbor because the East Harbor automatically becomes available for use by smaller vessels.

"We're now entering the months wherein the water is almost always calm. May is believed to be the calmest season of the year. We hope we don't have to go through this problem again," the mayor added.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said yester-

day that "permanently" opening up the East Harbor could help ease Rota's problems with shipment.

He and the Rota mayor said one company that's ready to help bring in shipment to Rota now has to hold off because the emergency declaration for Rota has been lifted and the East Harbor therefore cannot be used for such purpose.

"So nobody took the government's offer to open the East Harbor because 30 days is short for a company to prepare the vessel, get the clearances, and mobilize manpower. If the East Harbor is permanently open, then shipping companies can start planning to use it to bring in supply to Rota," Manglona said.

Manglona recently introduced a bill authorizing the use of Rota's East Harbor as an alternate port of entry for small cargo vessels to address what he describes as "infrequent and irregular shipping services" available to the island.

Earlier this year, some goods were also brought into Rota via U.S. Department of Defense planes, but not all essential goods and commodities can be brought in that way, such as chlorine and liquefied petroleum gas.

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Lawmakers from Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and Guam are teaming up to pressure the U.S. government for relief from a maritime law passed in the

The Jones Act was designed to protect the domestic shipping industry. It states that only ships made in the U.S. and flying the country's flags can deliver goods between U.S. ports.

That means a cargo ship from China cannot deliver goods from one U.S. port to another. It can't, for example, take goods picked up from Los Angeles to Hawaii.

Hawaii state Sen. Sam Slom says the law punishes the people of Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam and Hawaii with high costs of living.

Representatives from the impacted states and territories met in a videoconference Thursday.

"All of our areas are spe-

cifically impacted by the Jones Act," Slom said. "It is now known that the Hawaiian cost of living, primarily because of our additional shipping cost and because of the Jones Act, are now 49 percent higher than the U.S. mainland. And this is becoming unbearable. It's difficult for individuals. It's difficult for families. It's difficult for small businesses as well.

Slom is part of a bipartisan group of Hawaii lawmakers pushing Congress to reconsider the Jones Act or to consider a waiver for noncontiguous states and territories. Slom said it costs about \$790 to ship a 40-foot container from Los Angeles to Shanghai, but it costs \$8,700 to ship the same container from Los Angeles to Honolulu.

Alaskan lawmakers have made a similar request to Congress, but the state hasn't yet seen results, said Alaska state Sen. Fred Dyson. Like Hawaii, the state brings in most of its goods by ship or airplane.

### FITIAL

From Page 1

by another date.

Fitial is facing criminal charges for allegedly shielding former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons last year.

Wiseman said there is no need to set pretrial release conditions or bail conditions at this time. He said he will set the conditions when Fitial gets here.

Attorney Stephen Nutting appeared at the hearing as counsel for Fitial. Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel/assistant attorney general George L. Hasselback appeared for the government.

The hearing lasted only a few minutes as Hasselback did not object to Nutting's motions.

In an interview with reporters after the hearing, Nutting said they expect Fitial to return to Saipan in the last week of April 2014, right before his initial appearance or arraignment.

"The judge is very neutral. He imposed very reasonable conditions," Nutting said.

Nutting said he just talked on the phone with Fitial yesterday morning and that the former governor is doing well.

"He's still having problems. I guess the rehabilitation treatment he is undergoing right now is very, very intensive," the lawyer said.

Nutting said that Fitial has a neurological condition and the doctor is trying to bring back his mobility to improve his balance so he can walk on his own without a cane.

Hasselback told reporters that when Fitial is back on island, the judge will then assess whether or not the court will allow pretrial release, just like any other criminal case.

Hasselback said that Wiseman has indicated he will impose pretrial release conditions.

The OPA legal counsel admitted that they have yet to file formal charges against Fitial but added that they will file them pretty soon.

"The goal has been is and has always been to return a criminal defendant to the Commonwealth and have that person face the charges here in Superior Court," Hasselback said.

That goal, he said, has been accomplished, with no expenses to the Commonwealth.

As to the question whether Jermaine Joseph Wabol Nekaifes will testify for the government against Fitial, Hasselback said the granting of immunity for Nekaifes is conditioned upon the latter's cooperation with the Commonwealth in testifying against Buckingham and other co-defendants.

Nekaifes is a former police captain who used to serve as an escort/driver of then-governor Fitial. In exchange for his testimony, OPA moved to dismiss the charges against Nekaifes without prejudice.

The court recently granted OPA's request to dismiss the case against Nekaifes.

In a declaration he filed through Nutting, Fitial says he wants to return to the CNMI to face the criminal charges filed against him, adding that he has no desire to become a fugitive.

Fitial resigned as governor on Feb. 21, 2013. He and his wife Josie then left the CNMI.

In March 2013, OPA filed seven criminal charges against Fitial for his role in allegedly shielding Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

Last Feb. 19, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found Buckingham guilty of all public corruption charges except one and sentenced him to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended.

### **ROTA**

### Pai wants to continue work as CNMI public auditor

### >> Inos yet to decide as Pai's 6-year term expires in October

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Public Auditor Michael Pai said he is "interested in continuing" his work as CNMI public auditor but he said he and Gov. Eloy S. Inos have not had a chance to discuss this in detail yet. The governor separately told Saipan *Tribune* he hasn't "gone that far yet," but said he's aware that

October.

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial appointed Pai on July 22, 2008, to replace Michael Sablan, who resigned while serving his second term as public auditor. Three months later, in October 2008, the House and Senate confirmed Pai's appointment as public auditor.

"We are quite proud of the ac-

Pai's six-year term expires in complishments of the Office of the Public Auditor during my term, including the refocusing of the audit operations and increasing the number of audits," Pai said in an email response to Saipan Tribune questions.

> Pai said that OPA has also enhanced the government corruption and white collar crime investigations division "and believe that there will be cooperation with

the Office of the Attorney General in the pursuit of corruption in the coming months.'

OPA has also improved the processing of appeals of procurement decisions, he said.

Also under Pai's term as public auditor, OPA "successfully prosecuted" former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham "for the crimes he committed while in office."

Last Feb. 19. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found Buckingham guilty of all public corruption charges except one and sentenced him to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended.

"Our hope is that in the next six years, the audit staff will grow and the office's value to the CNMI will be further enhanced by additional staff that ready effective organization," Pai added.

Pai has been a certified public accountant for more than 20 years. He attended the University of Hawaii, where he completed degrees in engineering and business administration. He put up his own accounting firm in 1986, after working for a number of corporations and an accounting firm. He was also a shareholder for some businesses based in Guam, Minnesota, and Saipan.

### Supplemental budget bill may dissolve credit union

residence of the CNMI's resi-

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com

House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that Gov. Elov S. Inos' proposed fiscal year 2014 supplemental budget could be "around \$9 million," which would include \$5 million for the retirement settlement trust fund and "a little over \$300,000" to refund members of the Commonwealth Government Employees Credit Union. The supplemental budget bill could therefore contain a provision dissolving the credit union, Sablan said.

The governor, in an interview last week, said he is close to sending his 2014 supplemental budget to the Legislature, ahead of the April 1 deadline to submit a 2015 proposed budget.

The bulk of the supplemental budget—or \$5 million—will be added to the \$20 million already appropriated under the fiscal year 2014 budget for the minimum required payment of \$25 million this year to the retirement settlement trust fund.

Another major portion will cover the government's employer share of the health insurance premium.

Sablan said "a little over \$300,000" is expected to be set aside to refund credit union

### major uses for 'estimated \$9M'

members, while those who have outstanding debts to the credit union will be referred to the Office of the Attorney General for action.

"The goal is to pay those who chairman said.

### Where did money

Sablan said the governor's submission to the House and Senate will identify where the supplemental budget comes from, although based on his meeting with the governor, most of them came from increased business gross revenue tax collection as tourism continues to improve.

He said there is also millions of dollars coming from a major tax settlement, but this is outside the tax amnesty program.

The governor said a portion of

# >> Sablan cites

have money in there and refer to the AG's office those who owe money to the credit union. So basically the credit union will be dissolved after this is done. So the supplemental budget bill could have an administrative provision dissolving the credit union," the Ways and Means

### come from?

the supplemental budget includes

#### e burglarized Teacher's hom

A teacher of Eucon International School fell victim to burglars Monday last week.

Darlene Ridenour arrived home on March 10, 2014, at the Eucon Hotel in Papago across the old Botanical Gardens to find that her house had been

She said the burglars went through the back door and took almost everything in her apartment and then later went inside another tenant's room and took shoes.

Ridenour described the back doors as patio doors that could be popped up.

Among the items that were stolen were her TV set, DVD, camera, laptop, cell phone, a hard drive system and all her jewelry, several pieces of which were worth some money.

Ridenour said that among the irreplaceable items that were stolen was her daughter's class ring and pictures. According to the victim, the class ring belonged to her deceased daughter who passed away in a car accident several years ago.

"I cannot replace her things," she said. "Its very heartbreaking, I feel very violated...stealing pictures that can never be replaced," she said.

She said that police have been notified and have investigated both her room and the other room that was also burglarized. That room is occupied by a student of Eucon International School.

About two Eucon teachers and one student along with other residents stav in the hotel.

Ridenour said that someone also tried to break in through the front door by prying the doorknob.

Right now, she is thinking of calling pawnshops on the island to see if she could find and reclaim her daughter's ring, which she says has sentimental value.

No witnesses have come forward and the police have yet to inform the victim of any updates in their investigation. (Jayson Camacho)

proceeds from the sale of the Mariana House in Washington, D.C. to a real estate firm for over \$900,000. The former official

dent representative to the nation's capital was originally bought for \$250,000 to \$300,000.

It's barely a week before the governor's April 1 deadline to submit his fiscal year 2015 budget to the Legislature.

Inos said Office of Management and Budget personnel were on Rota last Friday

for budget hearings. Government agencies asked a total of some \$170 million in spending plans, even though the administration said the proposed budget could still be \$123.4 million, the same level as the current fiscal year.



### FBI analysis on alleged Romero hair excluded from trial

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has granted a motion to exclude the mitochondrial DNA test results and testimony of a Federal Bureau of Investigation forensic examiner on a strand of hair recovered from a car that was allegedly driven by murder suspect Joseph A. Crisostomo.

In granting Crisostomo's motion, Camacho excluded FBI forensic examiner Lara Adams' test results and conclusion that murdered bartender Emerita Romero cannot be excluded as the source of the unknown mitochondrial DNA sample. Camacho also denied the Commonwealth's motion to certify Adams as an expert to testify about this mitochondrial DNA

The judge, however, denied Crisostomo's motion to exclude the mitochondrial DNA test results and Adams' expert testimony that Crisostomo can be excluded as the source of the unknown mitochondrial DNA sample. Camacho also granted the Commonwealth's motion to certify Adams as an expert qualified to testify about this.

"In sum, the court finds that should not bear on the admisthe data underlying the statistical analysis is not sufficient to provide reliable information to the jury," Camacho said.

The Commonwealth asserts that Romero was in a car driven by Crisostomo on the night she died. The government recovered a hair from that car, and asked the FBI to compare the mitochondrial DNA from that hair sample to known samples of Romero and Crisostomo.

FBI forensic examiner Adams performed the analysis. She concluded in her report that Crisostomo could be excluded as the source of the hair but not Romero.

Crisostomo, through counsel Janet H. King, asked the court to exclude Adams' testimony and the results of the mitochondrial DNA analysis she did.

King argued that due to the limitations of the FBI's mitochondrial DNA database ("CO-DIS"), the statistical analysis provided is not reliable in this case, and therefore the mitochondrial DNA results should be excluded under the Commonwealth Rules of Evidence

The Commonwealth argued that the statistical analysis sibility of the evidence.

The government argued that it is only the results of the mitochondrial DNA comparison, whether or not the known sample matches the unknown, that should be considered under the Rules and the statistical analysis merely goes to the weight of the conclusion, not its reliability.

The court held a hearing on the issues last Feb. 18 and 21.

In his order on Friday, Camacho explained that mitochondrial DNA sequencing analysis involves genetics, chemistry, molecular biology, and statistics.

Camacho said human cells contain two types of DNA: nuclear DNA, two copies of which are found within the nucleus of each cell, and mitochondrial DNA, found in the mitochondria. Each cell has thousands of mitochondria, and thousands of copies of mitochondria DNA.

Mitochondrial DNA is inherited from only the mother, and is shared between relatives who have the same maternal lineage. This means that mitochondrial DNA is not a unique identifier. A person has the same mitochondrial DNA as his or her mother, mother's mother, siblings who

share a mother, and so on.

Additionally, sometimes unrelated people have identical mitochondrial DNA.

A mitochondrial DNA sequencing analysis involves comparing the mitochondrial DNA of two samples, and if the base sequence in the mitochondrial DNA samples match, searching a mitochondrial DNA database to determine how common or uncommon that particular mitochondrial DNA sequence is.

If the samples contain different base sequences, then the person who provided the known sample can be excluded as the source of the unknown sample.

When the samples are distinct, the analysis ends at this point, as the ability to exclude the person who provided the known sample is meaningful without statistical analysis.

However, if the samples contain the same sequence, then the base sequence found in the samples is compared against a database of mitochondrial DNA to determine how rare or common that particular sequence is.

The frequency of the mitochondrial DNA sequence in the population gives mean-

ing to the conclusion that the known source cannot be excluded as the source of the unknown sample.

The FBI's mitochondrial DNA database, CODIS, is composed of 4,000 mitochondrial DNA samples from 4,000 individuals. Adams testified that in the vast majority of cases, the CODIS database is sufficient.

However, she stated that this particular case has been the source of much discussion at the FBI and is likely to prompt a change in standard operating protocol.

Several ethnic groups present in the CNMI, and therefore relevant in understanding the frequency of a mitochondrial DNA sequence found in the CNMI, are not included in the CODIS database.

CODIS includes samples from individuals who identify themselves as Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Caucasian, so the FBI report includes upper bound frequency estimates for those groups.

However, CODIS does not contain profiles from individuals from the Philippines, or Chamorro or Carolinian descent, or any other Micronesian population groups.

Thus, Camacho said, the FBI report provides no information about the frequency of the mitochondrial DNA sequence among these groups.

Camacho said that based on a review of the filings, the testimony and exhibits presented during the hearing, and the applicable law, the court finds that the statistical analysis provided in this case is not reliable and does not meet the standards of Rules of Evidence.

The judge noted that the CO-DIS database does not include several of the major ethnic groups of the CNMI, such as Filipinos, Chamorros, Carolinians, or any other Micronesian population group.

Camacho said Adams' explanation of the problems with providing upper bound frequency estimates based on only one ethnic population group, or the combination of multiple population groups, indicates that the lack of a representative database results in the absence of useful information for the jury.

Crisostomo faces charges of kidnapping and killing Romero, whose body was found in the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012. The jury trial will start on April 7, 2014.

### Conservation biology research presentations Public presentations of scientific research performed in the CNMI will be held on March 19 and 20, 2014, from 5:30pm to 7pm, at the American Memorial Park auditorium. Various topics related to the field of conservation biology will

### gram. Subjects include:

MARCH 19 ■ JANICE TALLEY: Predicting Ringworm Infection in Wedge-Tailed Shearwater

be discussed by visiting stu-

dents of the Northern Arizona

University's Field Experience in Conservation Biology pro-

- ACACIA BAKER: Forage Preference of the Marianas Fruit
- KAHLEN DARR: Bird Communities and Cover Types on Saipan
- VICTORIA PTAK: Effects of sea Cucumbers in Sea-

grass Beds

■ JENNA GARRETT: Effect of Invasive Vinces on Flora

### MARCH 20

- LISA BERTIN: The Influence of Staghorn Coral on **Damselfish Communities**
- CHRISTINE MCINTIRE: Human Impact on Marine Investibrates
- HANNAH LAMB: The Effect of Human Activity on Coral Health
- BOBBI WILSON: Consumer Demand and Proposed Methods of Local Food Production
- KENDRA PETERSEN: Factors Affecting Trochus Populations on Saipan's Reef Flat

FECB student researchers collaborated with local citizens, students, and resource managers on their projects. All are encouraged to attend; admission is free. **(PR)** 



**TECHNICAL GRANT** 

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority staff meet with officials of the Easter Seals Project ACTION (Accessible Community Transportation In Our Nation) to discuss a technical assistance grant awarded to COTA. Known as the Accessible Transportation Technical Support Project, the grant will assist COTA with forming a local coalition to improve accessible transportation. Back row, from left: Rachel Beyerle, Resources & Publications manager, Easter Seals, Project Action; Ken Thompson, coordinator, Technical and Information Services, Easter Seals Project AC-TION; Vince Merfalen, Mobility Management & Transit coordinator, COTA; Roy Rios, community planner, COTA; Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for public transportation, COTA. Front Row, from left: Kystrian Boreyko, Training and Technical Assistance specialist, Easter Seals, Project ACTION; Dona Smith, director of Training, Easter Seals Project ACTION; Christopher Sablan, Grants Management coordinator, COTA; Mary Dickinson, administrative officer, COTA; Carol R. Wright, senior director of Accessible Transportation, Easter Seals Project ACTION.

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

#### Red flag up at 2 Tinian beaches, Rota drain

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged two beaches on Tinian and one storm drain on Rota and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Affected sites are the Tachogna Beach and Unai Masalok Beach on Tinian and the District 2 storm drain on Rota. Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

#### **Navy, Air Force training** at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following times:

- March 17-19, from 7am to 4pm
- March 20, midnight to March 26, midnight
- March 27-28, from 7am to 4pm

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- March 18 and 19, from 10am to 1:30pm
- March 20, from 11am to 1:30pm
- March 21, from 10am to noon

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. (PR)

### **Parent workshop at Kagman High**

Kagman High School will be having a workshop on how to help your child learn how to use reading skills in all content areas. The event will take place on March 22 from 9am to 2:30pm and April 10 from 5pm to 7:30pm at the Kagman High School campus. There will be food and giveaways! For more information, call KHS Main Office at 664-3780/237-3840.

There is a new incentive for KHS parents to get involved. Every event a KHS parent attends—from Progress report to PTSA meeting to Literacy Nights-earns that parent a raffle ticket to be placed in the end of the year raffle. Raffle tickets can not be purchased. They can only be earned. Parents can earn them by participating in their teen's education. Grand prize is a flat screen TV! **(PR)** 

### MHS to hold unannounced drills

Parents and guardians of Marianas High School students are being informed that the school will be conducting some unannounced emergency drills throughout the rest of the school year that may include fire, typhoon, bomb threat, active shooter, volcanic haze, earthquake, and tsunami drills. These drills help MHS staff, students, emergency personnel, and community to prepare for reallife emergency situations that may occur in the school. For more information, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5. (PR)

### PSS: Offer loan program instead of upfront scholarship

moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Board of Education and the Public School System believe it to be more viable for the government to offer a loan program instead of upfront scholarships to college students as what is being proposed in a pending legislation at the House of Representatives.

In a joint letter to the House Committee on Education, BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero and acting education com-

missioner Glenn Muna said they like the goal of House Bill 18-178, which proposes to establish a related service providers scholarship. However, the bill must consider not only the needs of the public sector but private companies as well, they said.

They pointed out that HB 18-178 takes into account only the needs of PSS.

"There are many essential positions that are not being filled in the private sector because our children do not have an incentive to return to the CNMI. This should be remedied. By making the scholarship contingent on employment with PSS, the bill simultaneously limits the earning capacity of a qualified individual and forces PSS to fill a job that it may or may not need in the future," according to the two officials.

For Guerrero and Muña, it might be helpful to allow graduates to provide "essential services" to the government or people of the CNMI in any capacity, as opposed to limiting it to a public sector job. The of an upfront scholarship probill, they said, should include also some of the in-demand jobs that the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance has listed as well.

The bill, they said, only targets those students who have not yet begun their advanced degrees.

"This means that the first time we might see any of these students return to the CNMI is in three years' time. In order to remedy that, we suggest that you look at the option of a loan repayment program instead

gram," according to Guerrero and Muña.

They explained that instead of awarding students scholarships, they can be offered \$10,000 a year after they return to the CNMI and provide an essential service to pay off their loan.

By doing this, two goals will be accomplished, they said.

First, this will allow students who are currently getting an advanced degree in the United States to benefit from returning to the CNMI now. This means that PSS will not have to wait for another three years to reap the benefits of the bill and that these services will become immediately available.

Secondly, this will do away with the problem of collection and accounting for those students who return and do not fulfill the full three years, or do not return at all after receiving a scholarship.

"We can only imagine that it is a delicate and unfortunate process to try to collect money from a young professional who for whatever reason has decided not to return to the CNMI. By offering a loan repayment, however, that students will view returning to the CNMI as an opportunity to shrink their debt as opposed to an obligation that they signed up for early on, maybe when their circumstances were different," added the

### Five CHCC staff pass Tier 1 certification



Back row, from left: Joyce Macaranas, Isabel Davis, Sanivette Babauta, and program coordinator Yuline Cruz. Front row, from left: Lillian Bennett, Velma Del Rosario, trainer Abby Belza, and Monissa Blas.

Staff of the Healthy Outcomes for Maternal and Early-childhood (H.O.M.E.) Visiting Program of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health and Maternal and Child Health recently participated in a Tier 1 certification training on the Growing Great Kids curriculum.

Abby Belza, a licensed Growing Great Kids trainer, facilitated the five-day training from Feb. 24 to 28 2014.

Growing Great Kids is an interactive training in all segments of the GGK module. The home visitor staff and their supervisor were able to successfully transfer what was learned into job skills and competency building.

During the five-day training, Belza assigned a module in order to facilitate a strengthbased approach and solution focused on home visitor staff and their supervisor with participating families. Evaluation on their performances exceeded expectation. Successfully completing this Tier 1 certification allows the CHCC's staff to go to the next two Tiers cer-

tification process. Completing all three Tiers of the Growing

Jonathan J. Tenorio Attao

Telephone No.: (670) 322-5874

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE** 

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

for the Change of Name of: ) CIVIL ACTION

Jonathan Jacob ) NO. 14-0112

Notice is hereby given that the above-

entitled matter is set for a hearing on March

27, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A,

before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz

Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

) NOTICE OF

) HEARING

In the Matter of the Petition ) FCD CN

Petitioner

P.O. Box 500813

PRO SE

Saipan, MP 96950

the program participants will

Great Kids curriculum with ultimately benefit stakeholders in the CNMI. (CHCC)



is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER

High School diploma or equivalent with experience in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours

Applications can be obtained and submitted at our security office located in the south wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. March 25, 2014.

Fiesta Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



#### Procurement And Supply **CNMI** Government



### **INVITATION FOR BID**

ITB NO.: ITB14-BECQ-069

#### Submission/Opening Date: March 27, 2014 Time: 1:00 p.m. "PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FIFTEEN COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals. in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN Admnistrator of BECQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, P&S



### Procurement And Supply



### **CNMI** Government

INVITATION FOR BID ITB NO.: ITB14-CHCC-070

Submission/Opening Date: March 27, 2014

Time: 11:00 a.m.

#### "PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A SERVER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION - EARLY DETECTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM'

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular

The government reserves the righ to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA CEO - Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, P&S



#### Procurement And Supply **CNMI** Government



**INVITATION FOR BID** ITB NO.: ITB14-BECQ-067

Submission/Opening Date: March 27, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.

#### "PURCHASE OF ONE (1) VESSEL AND OUTBOARD ENGINE FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN



### (1) DIRECTOR OF FOOD & BEVERAGE

Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred or minimum of 4 years work experience in a hotel food and beverage environment. Experience with and good understanding of financial and operational management of a hotel food and beverage operation. Excellent customer service skills and a passion for the hospitality industry. Stable work history and demonstrated achievement in progressively more responsible positions in hotel food and beverage operations along with strong, supportive employment references. Knowledgeable of safe sanitary procedures and health codes, overall compliance of all health regulations for food preparation. Proven ability to effectively build a team environment and makes decisions in a fast paced environment. Proficient with computer software applications. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and

### (3) ELECTRICIAN

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent or minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Maintain current electrician's license or identification card to meet governmental regulations. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified

### (9) COOK

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Ability to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 24, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

### Orsini wins seat on UOG Board of Regents

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

REPORTER

A student from the CNMI has earned a seat on the University of Guam's Board of Regents, as a student regent with voting rights.

Vinni Orsini, 18, is the youngest elected president of the university's student body and the first chosen by his peers from outside Guam. He garnered the highest number of votes in the 10-year record of the institution.

Orsini defeated the incumbent in a two-day election held on March 4 and 5.

This year's poll had the highest voter turnout UOG has seen in a decade. There were a total of 738 votes cast and Orsini received 435 votes. The student regent serves a term of two years.

The 18-year-old is a public administration major at the university. He is the son of Andrew and Bertha Orsini, both from Saipan. The student attended primary school at Oleai Elementary School and went to Grace Christian Academy on Saipan for middle school. He graduated from Marianas High School in 2012.

"I was humbled with the news of winning. Being only 18, I appreciate the trust much older students have shown me," he told Saipan Tribune Saturday.



Vinni Orsini is shown campaigning for his election bid early this month. The 18-vear-old student from Saipan is the voungest ever elected as Student Regent to the University of Guam Board of Regents.

him to run for office, Orsini expressed his strong desire to help students achieve their educational goals.

"I believe students need a strong voice in the Board of Regents and a strong presence on campus. I wanted to be the voice of all who struggle to pay for a college education and for all who have difficulty in

When asked what motivated are issues that can be improved through policies," he said.

> Orsini shared his priorities for UOG students in the next two years of his leadership.

"My campaign slogan was 'Putting the You back in UOG.' Many students are not aware of the policies that affect their education and I believe that their concerns should be addressed, because we are not customers, graduating in four years. These we are students, and it is important that university policies are shaped with the students in mind," he said.

Orsini specifically cited some policies he wants to bring to the board's attention.

"I would like to implement policies to decrease the price of textbooks by requiring textbooks with PDF files to be used in the classroom. This is a great way to save money and lead the university into the 21st century. Many students take self-taught math courses multiple times. I would like to alter these courses to become more instructorbased because they are the same price as regular courses without the instructor present. I would also like to make sure that adequate infrastructure is present on campus. The university has not built adequate shelter from one building to the next, especially in times of rain," he explained.

He is convinced he will be effective on the board. "I think I was voted by my peers because I am honest and hardworking. Many people are afraid to speak up about things and I am more than happy to speak for them. I am very long-term minded and above all, I believe that all issues should be voted based on the most good for the most number of people and I hope to apply these as student regent," added Orsini.

### Global Travel Media cites '7-color' ocean of NMI

China's Global Travel Media, a production company specializing in weekly television travel shows with an audience of 3 million viewers, cited the "seven-color ocean" of the Northern Mariana Islands while filming in this beach resort destination on March 4-8, 2014.

GTM visited the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and will produce at least 20, 5-10 minute videos for release via

The Travel Channel and popular websites Youku.com, Toudou.com, and Sina.com.

"The media crew was amazed by our 'seven-color ocean' while on the ferry to Managaha," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "They love the beautiful views and peacefulness of the islands and said they hope to come back for a vacation with

their families."

Activities included a tour and barbecue lunch at Managaha, a submarine tour, snorkeling with turtles, a Seawalker tour, and a tour of scenic and historic sites on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Hotels inspected included Coral Ocean Point Resort, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Marianas Resort & Spa, Tinian Dy-

nasty Hotel & Casino, Rota Resort, and Mango Resort. Other businesses visited were QQ Car Rental, 360 Revolving Restaurant, Moby Dick, Country House, DFS Galleria, Kinpachi Restaurant, Hard Rock Café, Kingfisher Golf Links, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, and I Love Saipan.

Lodging was provided by Hyatt Regency Saipan and Mango Resort. (MVA)



A production crew of China's Global Travel Media "hangs loose" at Garapan Fishing Base while filming on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on March 4-8, 2014. From left are Marianas Visitors Authority representative Kristin Cao, show host and producer Yang Liu, MVA marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, director Tao Yang, models Yanyang Li and Shi Tang, stylist Jiping Fei, and photographer Shun Cui.



#### March 18, 2006

#### PIC picks up \$50K tab for Hopwood renovation

Pacific Islands Club recently acted as a Good Samaritan to Hopwood Junior High School, picking up the tab for a \$50,000 renovation project at the largest junior high school in the CNMI. PIC general manager Kieran Daly said the renovation entailed the construction of new basketball courts, repair of classroom ceilings and roofs, paved hallways, landscaped and constructed planters, as well as the installation of lunch benches around the school, where students and school employees can enjoy lunch everyday. Daly said the renovation project started in January and ended last Monday. Apart from the construction of facilities, the hotel also donated new books worth \$2,000 to add to the dwindling number of books in the school's library.

#### 21 abandoned workers troop to Labor

Twenty-one abandoned construction workers trooped to the Department of Labor yesterday morning after they received information that Labor is expected to resolve their complaints. Twenty Filipinos and one Chinese, all employees of the defunct Elephant Corp. in Chalan Kanoa, patiently waited outside the Division of Administrative Hearing Office until late afternoon. When the Saipan Tribune left Labor at 4:50pm, there was no order yet as administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody was still completing the decision.

#### March 18, 2007

### CPA can go back to 80 hours but won't

The Commonwealth Ports Authority can go back to the standard 80-workhour per pay period but it would not do so in view of the ongoing austerity program government-wide. Learning of an \$83,000 savings on personnel during the first five months of fiscal year 2007 during a board meeting Thursday, CPA board member Connie Igisomar quipped, "That's why I'm saying that we don't have to do 72 hours." She said that CPA has enough resources to compensate its personnel for the standard work schedule of 40 hours a week. Community reflects on Vatican's three new sins

### **PSS denies rumor of Head Start cleanup**

The cash-strapped Public School System is denying the buzz that's been going around the island that the Education Office would be releasing all Head Start Program teachers this year due to budget constraints. "The rumor is just that," said PSS Federal Program advisor Tim Thornburgh. He said a few Head Start teachers with bachelors' and masters' degrees might be transferring to public schools but this happens every year, when staff members transfer between schools. He pointed out that many current elementary school teachers started as teacher aides with Head Start.

### March 18, 2008

### DPS gets car seat check-up van, \$20K grant

The Department of Public Safety has acquired a mobile car seat check-up van through federal grants and was awarded another \$20,000 for the teen driver safety program. Acting DPS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita and other DPS officials announced yesterday the acquisition of the car seat check-up van and the \$20,000 federal grant. DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the Office of Grants and Special Programs, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, provided DPS Traffic Section with the mobile car seat check-up van.

### **Community reflects on Vatican's three new sins**

Environmentalists and the local Catholic Church said they are happy with the Vatican's recent move to add three more to the list of sins—pollution, drugs, and genetic manipulation. Fr. Ryan Jimenez said with the three new areas of sinful behavior, the Vatican is "not trying to change the whole doctrine of the Catholic Church but trying to be more relevant to the needs of the people in the modern era." The Vatican updated the list of mortal sins recently to relate to the age of globalization. Monsignor Gianfranco Girotti, who heads the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican body that issues decisions on matters of conscience and grants absolutions, said that while sin used to concern the individual mostly, today it has a more social resonance due to the phenomenon of globalization.

### OAG, Jorgensen file final draft for \$800K settlement deal

REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General and Betty Johnson's original counsel, Bruce Lee Jorgensen, have filed in federal court the fi-

### March 22 is World Water Day!

Every March 22 the world comes together to celebrate World Water Day. It is a time to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and advocate for its sustainable management. Thanks to the United Nations General Assembly,



the world been observing World Water Day since 1993. BECQ's Division of Coastal

Resources Management is hosting events to celebrate not only freshwater, but also the importance of our oceans. It has been said many times before, but water is life.

Water may be the most common substance on Earth, but less than 1 percent of the water on Earth is available for everyday use; the rest is salt water, inaccessible, or frozen. Saipan is lucky that we have access to freshwater and are capable of purchasing drinking water at an affordable price. Many are not as lucky; about one in eight of the world's population do not have clean drinking water. The human body can only survive three days without water since water makes up 55 percent to 75 percent of the body.

Freshwater is important, but the water that surrounds our islands is equally important. Globally about 500 million people depend on coral reefs for their livelihood and so do we. The reefs that grow around Saipan provide food, give protection from storms, and are housing medication. Just like freshwater, our salt water is also

DCRM wants to share their knowledge about the importance of water and raise awareness. Participate in the daily water quiz posted in the local paper, friend Primo CRM on Facebook to learn fun water facts, and visit an ACE for water saving tips. Join in our World Water Day activities on March 22 including a guided CNMI Snorkels program around the tanks meeting at the beach by Naked Fish from 9am-12pm, canvas bag giveaway at Joeten Susupe from 10am-12pm, and a book reading and craft at the public library starting at 10:30am. Happy World Water Day! *(PR)* 

nal draft of their agreement that settles Jorgensen's attorney's fees and costs in the amount of \$800,000.

The OAG and Jorgensen filed the final draft of their settlement deal in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday, the deadline set by designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

The agreement was signed by Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, Jorgensen, and Jorgensen's counsel,

Mitchell F. Thompson.

According to the settlement deal, which is subject to court approval, the CNMI government shall deliver to Jorgensen's counsel by wire transfer the sum of \$250,000 upon the court's approval of the deal, wire transfer another \$250,000 on or before April 4, 2014, and \$300,000 on or before Feb. 15, 2015.

Upon receipt of the first installment payment, Jorgensen

is authorized to pay attorney Jared Washkowitz \$4,250 for his services to the class. He is also authorized to reimburse the donation by class members to him such as \$2,100 to Johnson; \$600 to Teresa N. Tripp; and the amount of donation by any of the 14 class members who made a donation to David Price who now wishes to be reimbursed

Last March 3, Frances Tydingco-Gatewood approved the CNMI government's \$185,000 settlement with Johnson's local counsel, Stephen Woodruff, and placed under advisement the CNMI government's settlement with Jorgensen.

Jorgensen filed billing statements alleging he spent a total of 3,891.1 hours working on the litigation. He claimed he should be paid \$325 per hour for his time. He requested a total of \$18,651,262.50 under the lodestar approach or

\$29,560,961.45 under the common fund theory.

Woodruff's initial demand was between \$1 million to \$2.9 million. Johnson's other counsel, Timothy Lord's initial demand was either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million, but the court placed it under advisement.

Bronster Hoshibata, the Hawaii-based counsel for Johnson, is demanding \$17.5 million, but the court also placed the petition under advisement.



The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Kinpachi Restaurant staff, and the Saipan Awaodori Team collected more

day at the Paseo de Marianas. The cleanup started at 8am after meeting in front of the Kinpachi Restaurant to pick up supplies. More than 20 volunteers, including nine Kinpachi employees, 11 Saipan Awaodori Team members, and about 15

than 740 lbs of trash last Satur-

BECQ officers and staff showed up for the weekend event.

BECQ concentrated on taking out dirt and trash clogging the drainage along the area, in preparation of the storm drain cleanup that began yesterday, March 17.

Volunteers picked up trash and garbage from Coral Tree Avenue near Hyatt Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort & Spa, to Micro Beach Road near

American Memorial Park, the Beach Road area, toward Paseo de Marianas, and near the drainage at Winchell's Road.

"Were so happy that they joined us in the cleanup because now they are concentrating on the tourist area in Garapan," said Sonia Siwa, coordinator for PDM Promoters, Inc., referring to BECO's participation.

The cleanup was being held in preparation for a multi-agency cleanup of Garapan's storm drains to address the recent flooding events associated with non-seasonal rains in the region.

The drainage cleanup that began yesterday is led by Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., BECQ, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and National Park Services. It will last approximately three weeks: traffic will be closed temporarily for the work crews to start with

the road next to the drainage canal adjacent to Fiesta Resort and will move toward the American Memorial Park.

BECQ stated that those who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade

Those who want to volunteer can contact BECQ office at 664-8500/1. (Jayson Camacho)

### AMP tennis court rehabilitation begins

Danes Construction Corp. of Guam will begin the American Memorial Park tennis court rehabilitation today, March 18, 2014. The project will consist of two phases. Phase one has a tentative completion date of May 19, 2014. Phase two has a tentative completion date of July 11, 2014. All completion dates are tentative and weather/ circumstance dependent. In the interest of public safety, the tennis courts, tennis facilities, playground, and adjacent areas will be closed to the public for the duration of the project. A public announcement will be issued upon project completion. (NPS)

### NMC and Framingham launch the 11th cohort program

Framingham State Univer- are scheduled in a way that individuals—employed by associate degrees in busiagain to train a new cohort of students who will be working toward their master's degree in education.

The graduate program, which culminates in a degree conferred by the Framingham State University, presents a unique opportunity for students living and working in the CNMI to advance both academically and professionally.

Many of the graduates of the cohort program are now employed by the CNMI Public School System as teachers, principals, and administrators.

The classes for the program

sity and Northern Marianas recognizes that many of the the CNMI Public School ness, business administra-College have joined forces students hold full time jobs System, Northern Marianas tion (emphasis on accountand are balancing many obligations. As such, the courses are provided in a condensed but convenient format supported by prior readings, and culminate in a final project. The instructional content of the classes are delivered through both online formats as well an in-class sessions, which are led by Framingham professors who travel to the CNMI to meet personally with the cohort participants.

Since the start of the collaborative effort between the college and Framingham State University, 177 College, private schools and other organizations—have completed the program. The graduation of the current cohort of students will raise the number of graduates obtaining a master's degree from Framingham State University past 200.

The Northern Marianas College offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services),

ing, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Individuals interested in joining the next cohort may contact Floyd Masga at the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute at 234-5498 Ext. 6808/6802 or email floyd.masga@marianas.edu. (NMC)

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### **Opinion**



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### **EDITORIAL**

# Young, alone and in court

ntil about three years ago, federal agents annually intercepted 8,000 unaccompanied minors entering the United States illegally. By last year, the number had jumped to nearly 26,000. This year's projection: As many as 60,000 youngsters may attempt to cross into this country without parents or papers.

This surge of under-age humanity presents two problems. First is understanding the forces propelling it, which experts say include narco-trafficking, Central American gang violence and abusive homes. Parents desperate to raise their children outside the reach of powerful gangs are packing them off to the north, making the calculated gamble that the trip will be safer than staying put. Other youths are caught up in sex-trafficking or similarly exploitative or abusive situations, and they come to this country to escape.

The second problem the U.S. faces is what to do with the youngsters once they get here. Unlike people charged with criminal offenses, those detained on immigration violations do not have the right to a court-appointed attorney during deportation proceedings, so if the detained person can't afford a lawyer, he or she often faces the judge alone. There are real consequences: A 2007 Georgetown University Law Center study found that people represented by lawyers were three times more likely to win protection.

The issue is compounded when the defendant is a child. Children barely of school age have been compelled to argue alone in immigration court why they should be allowed to stay. Often, the children can't even understand the language, let alone the process, which means there is a very real chance that minors who qualify for asylum or other protections are being booted out of the country without a fair hearing.

This is wrong. There are reasons for and against providing indigent adults with legal help as they seek permission to remain in the country, a debate we won't join here. How unaccompanied children are processed within the U.S. immigration system is a different issue that needs addressing out of fairness, if not a sense of humanity.

The federal government should develop a system under which unaccompanied minors have access to a lawyer or experienced advocate (as happens in child-welfare court proceedings) to defend their interests. A number of non-profit organizations, such as Kids in Need of Defense, have been training and coordinating pro bono lawyers to help children. While the number of available lawyers falls far below the need, that pro bono system could offer a framework for the government to build on—much like a targeted public defender system—to ensure that all detained unaccompanied minors have someone in their corner during deportation proceedings.

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### North Korea 2014 meets Rome AD 65

By JAMES ROMM

ast week, as the Ides of March approached—the March 15 anniversary of the assassination of Julius Caesar, a determined but ultimately fruitless attempt by Roman senators to stop their government from sliding toward dictatorship—the minds of some ancient historians may turn in a seemingly unlikely direction: toward modern North Korea.

The dark and menacing regime of Kim Jong Un seems a long way off from the Augustan "Golden Age" of ancient Rome, an era that produced art and literature still admired today. The differences between the two societies are, of course, vast, but the parallels are nonetheless striking. In the century or so following Caesar's assassination, his successors achieved a power so absolute that they were worshiped as gods on Earth, as the Kims are today. Yet they, again like the Kims, suffered chronic insecurity about their legitimacy, and that fear led to terrible abuses.

Hereditary rulers who are not kings—who have no long tradition or constitutional authority behind them—are somewhat exotic creatures in the annals of history. They often invent new titles to describe their role in the state: Princeps, or "first citizen," in the case of the Caesars, Supreme Leader (and variants of that term) in that of the Kims. They need to foster a cult of personality to take the place of scepters and crowns, and the loyalty of their military—the Praetorian Guard in Rome; the People's Army in Pyongyang—must be prominently displayed. They show deep anxiety over succession and transfers of power, as though sensing that any hesitancy or weakness in such moments may bring a crisis.

When Kim Jong II died in December 2011 and his son Kim Jong Un took over, Oxford classicist Alison Rosenblitt noted how closely the regime's rituals tracked those of the Caesars in AD 14. The secrecy surrounding the death of Julius' adopted son Augustus; the accession of Augustus' stepson, Tiberius; and the tightly managed rituals of mourning and burial seemed to parallel one another, step for step and day by day, across two millenniums.

To observe the Kims' transfer of power, Rosenblitt wrote, was, for an ancient historian, similar to what a volcanologist experiences while watching a live eruption.

Recently, another seismic event in North Korea has borne out Rosenblitt's comparison. Kim Jong Un's abrupt execution of his uncle Jang Song Taek in December sent shock waves through the North Korean power structure; in subsequent months Jang's associates and even his relatives and their children appear to have been similarly eliminated, according to South Korean reports. Kim's ferocity in turning on Jang, an older man who had been appointed his mentor and advisor, seems uncannily close to the behavior of a

Roman forerunner: Nero, the last in the Julian line, who similarly killed his mentor and chief advisor, the philosopher Seneca.

The two purges may have similar roots in the psychology of the men carrying them out. Nero and Kim Jong Un came to power young—Nero at 16, Kim at 28—and both were "alternates," succeeding their predecessors only after other heirs apparent fell from favor. Neither had shown, before accession, the temperament or talents that would have fitted them for rule.

Kim's fascination with NBA stars such as Dennis Rodman recalls Nero's obsession with chariot racing, so powerful that even as princeps he defied all conventions to compete in the sport himself. Kim's self-indulgent, party-animal lifestyle resembles that of Nero. Rodman compared Kim's private pleasure island to resorts like Ibiza, "but he's the only one that lives there." Nero favored all-day banquets and drinking parties, interrupted only for dips in snow-cooled swimming pools.

Kim struck down his uncle and No. 2 over a list of elaborate, trumped-up charges that may have masked a real struggle over power and business interests. Nero lashed out at his own senior staffer, a man who had been something close to a father to him.

Seneca had tutored Nero from age 13 and, after his accession three years later, had helped stabilize his rule. But Seneca's sagacity and self-possession irked a young man who possessed neither quality. As he reached his 20s, Nero grew to hate his former teacher, finally seizing on a pretext in AD 65 to have Seneca killed—then went on to target the man's relatives and friends, just as Kim is now destroying Jang's circle.

Nero's demons also drove him to kill his mother and brother, and, quite possibly, to set the Fire of Rome, a conflagration that consumed nearly two-thirds of the city. Luckily for Romans, his delusions took a more benign turn after the purge of AD 65 and he began performing as a professional musician, until his troops got fed up and deposed him. One can only hope that Kim Jong Un, who thus far has shown a dismaying bellicosity and a fondness for brandishing nuclear weapons, may one day retreat into his passions for movies and video games.

Such parallels remind us, as another Ides of March arrives, of how much was at stake when Brutus and Cassius drew their knives in the senate house in 44 BC. Military-backed autocrats, whether in ancient Rome or modern North Korea, are uniquely able to act out their own psychic torments in purges and vendettas, often making the best men their first victims. From a historian's viewpoint, the road ahead for Kim Jong Un's regime looks like a dark one indeed.

James Romm is professor of Classics at Bard College and author of Dying Every Day: Seneca at the Court of Nero. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

### Lache na tinituhon

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



legña finu' i kuentos, "I tinatetta fumanunu'e haf' mamamaila'". Leksion: Yangin baba na tinituhon, siempre baba uttimoña. Estague' tafafana' gi che'chu' achibau na inapprueban aktun casino guine gi alacha.

Ma`alulayeye ma-apprueba sin inekuñgog publiku kase pot chathinassun man-sabiu sa` dos biahe i publikun Saipan ha punu` este na diniseha. Dispues `nai marepapara na lamegai siha man-sustansiau na asuntun linahyan manaigue gi sanhalom ayu na aktu.

Ala kuenta ma-apprueba sin ma-ina kabales pot para u mataitai dispues haf` gaige gi halom i aktu. Na ti kulan tapega i toru gi menan karetan guaka? Na ti este sustansian masaulag hinalula i aktun casino? Dios mihu na che`chu` muron!

Displues, hafa para ta estotba kinalamten adelantu giya Tinian yan Luta? Presisu i tautau dos tanu` de umahusga representadot niha haf` na masupotta destrosiun Luta yan Tinian. Magahet na ti marepara aksion niha? Hombre dinanche Luta pinadesen ha`ilas ya para ta destrosia mas appottunidatña kalamten para i tautauña?

Lokue', kulan mohon mantañga yan bachet aksion representanten Precinct I ni sumupotta aktun casino. Na ti ma'pos ha' na semana 'nai masoda' dos Chinu man-mapunu, soñgge yan man-ma-utot adeñg niha? Kau ti man-inestotba hamyu na guaha este na finatai koneksioña yan grupun kriminat ginen China? Haf' na para in' na kilulog huyuñg guafag hinalom mas kriminat?

Afañielos, todu baba na tinituhon siempre baba uttimoña. Tatnai mauleg che'chu' hasupag poresu na todu botadot Precincts siha,

maila ta suppotta muna` fan matachoñg ayu solu i kumontra i casino na aktu.

### "Para`i Sainamu..."

Gi todu estotbu na asuntu, mauleg ta fan sehan ñaihon pot para ta yeñgyoñg yan asegura na gagaige ha` i talen añklata ni pinegan mañainata na ha gugu`ot galaide`ta. Gaige este gi un` palabra: Ekuñgog.

Dañkulu, chagu` yan anchu sustansian este na palabra. Esta manechu hit tautau ya man-eyag hit lokuw` dichu amtau na che`chu` tautau. Nahoñg finaposta para talie` na todu che`chu` pinalala tatnai ma`ug. Pues halan ñaihon tatte sensian bastus ya tana` setbe i mas katma na sensiata.

Gi finu` i kanta, "Atan hulu` i pilan gi lañget…hai`ina i hemhum na chalan, para talie` hinanauta, kulan un` saina gi famaguon, ha pupulan maseha manu, ayu na hagu lokue` ni patgon,para i sainamu muñga ingratu." Tana` fitme mas apunturian kabesata gi todu pinetsige para minauleg todus.

#### Finapos un`talayeru

Estaba un` talayeru kumakahat gi kanton tasi giya Puntan Muchot. Tatatte lahiña chiliguagua` ni chumuchule` i guagua` guihan. Hoben na patgon lahe ya sesen magof chalegña kada ha tantan si tataña kantidan kineni` gi hilu` unai.

Sessu tatte este na patgon ya adumididi` sige umeyag offisiun talaya. Ha atetuye deste ora, modun tasi, haf` na guihan gaige gi kanton tasi huyuñg esta i rubentason `nai mamagta` i napu. Umeyag lokue` lumulai, tekin yan panag.

I ineyag este na hoben, petmanente. Ha tatitye lastron tataña gi kanton tasi maseha guaha `nai ti ha hagu` ya esta nina` e`ensinahyau. Lau enfin ha atrebigue`. Hana` hahassuyu` un` finu` amku', "Na`e` na`ña guihan sa` chumochu pagu. Fana`gue pumeska sa` chumochu` guihan maseha ñgai`an na tiempu. Magahet!

#### Finana`guen un` biha

Hu huhuñgog kulan guaha man-guaguadog gi fihon kolat i gima`. Estaba i nanan mame biha as Nanan Namar sige ha usune kumuha i edda`.

Siñko mesis dispues, ha hale' dididi' ya ha stone dispues ha agañyu'. Esta hana' matmanyu' na sakan tinanomña i amku'.

Un' dia in' tanume gualu As Perdido ladañkulu na plaset kamute. Fuera de in' benefisia, ha kubre nina'en familia guatu gi kuattro na fandañgo.

#### Bien felis man-gachoñghu

Dos gi Class of 1968 ginen Tinian dumiñgu hit na sakan: Francisco A. Hocog yan James A. Fleming. Mauleg yan dignu finapos niha para i tautau niha Tinian. Hu sen agradese i dos man-gachoñghu pot man-grasiosu gi tiempon mame Hopwood High School.

Animu deste tutuhon estake man-magradua ham ya ha bira siha tatte Tinian. Si Frank muaestro un` tiempo mientras si James manayuda gi bisnis mañainaña. Bien felis gi kareran miyu ya i Saina in` fan binendise.

Sige chaka chaleghu 'nai hu hahassu na sen ti mattu gi hinaso-ghu na un' dia bai amku' lokue'. Gaigeyu' gi idat 'nai kanaha' todu man-hoben pumapañgunyu' "pop" 'sino "saina". Hu aksepta piot 'nai sigeyu' umensinahyau 'an hu babale hiyuñg guma'. Dios mihu!

'Nai mattuyu' gi lanchu, hu gu'ot i kuha para bai hale' 'an utut tañgantañgan. Taigue esta fuetsaghu hombre hu yotten ñaihon pot no bai malie' ni famaguon na tihu lañgag i hagas usuhu antes. Hu aksepta na estayu' tufai. Fuera ha' di chenot fatta sa' ayu 'nai magpu' i nobena.

Ilegniniha na mauleg i aktun casino lau hasupag `nai ma-apprueba ni lehislatura sin inekuñgog publiku gi ma`pos na semana. I man-mañapotta ilegniniha na esta guaha tinilaika gi sentimientun publiku. Diberas?

Hu a'adu' haf' sustansian tinilaika ni malie' ni tita lilie'. Unu klaru na tinilaika: linala' miserapble gi señgsoñg siha pot diskuidon miyu. Este ha' huli'e na tinilaika guine.

Estague` na tinilaika finañagu ni diskuidun man-sabiun hegsu` I Deni` pot mas ke trenta años. Gatdun i miserapble na linala` tautau pa`gu gi halom un` sumen kuchinu` na fache` diskuidon manma`gas. A` Saina!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### What about justice for my daughter?

There are millions of prisoners here in the United States. The government is in trouble budgeting their existence behind the walls. A recent study revealed a tendency to cut this budget. Just imagine the outflow of money—for one, they are spending an average of \$15 per day for food plus doctors' services, laundry, clothes, shoes, utilities, etc. Seeing how many taxpayers' billion dollars are being spent for those prisoners, lawmakers are taking a hard look at the possibilities of lessening the spending. Obviously, not every prisoner is a heavyweight criminal but they still get isolated frequently for some small domestic violence or for a mistake that could be forgiven mercifully.

What happened to Carmelita G., my dear daughter, can serve as a real life illustration. She got sentenced to 20 years in prison for attempted murder. Attempted! I am not a lawyer but my heart is in pain for my daughter's 20 years of precious life, for a wrong but forced step that is already understood and repented from the deepest of hearts! The judge overlooked some of the crucial evidence and how humans act under strong affection and when cornered by

life threatening hazards. Had I been allowed to ask one question, I would have asked if they took into account how the problem started and how it developed before the tragedy happened. What about that partner not following the court-issued prohibition not to come closer than 200 feet to her and visiting her again and again? The tragedy should not have happened at all if from the very beginning the guy had not trespassed! If all these circumstances were given weight properly, my Carmelita should not have gotten that harsh 20 years of deprivation of normal life. And her children do not deserve to be deprived of their only parent! No person is above the law but nobody should be put under the too excessive weight of the law, too! Where is that balanced approach to my daughter's life and future, which our laws demand?

Further, Carmelita is not a person inclined to hurt anyone. She tried only to get out of her car, run away and stay as far away as possible from trouble. Dear judge, it was that partner-guy who blocked her way out! It was him who tried to grab the key! Carmelita closed the window to keep away from him but he broke the window with

a screwdriver! The evidence exists! She was cornered and under threat of getting killed (by a loved one!), so in a desperate try to get rid of the imminent danger (and being the weaker of the two!), she had no choice but to step on the gas pedal just to flee! How it can be qualified as attempted murder? The very first thing she tried to do in that situation was run away from the trouble! But the trouble was not letting her go! He was attacking her, forcing her to get under his control! She had all the right to protect her life and safety. There was no plan borne in mind and hatched up before that tragedy!

Our country is not a place like, for example, Pakistan. Something should be done to eliminate cases of finding oneself in jail for 20-plus years for a forced action under unforeseen circumstances. My daughter was sentenced so unjustly! She is already going out of her mind! She needs mercy from our society! My heart aches so much for her, but I am over 80 years old and cannot do anything for her. Good people, please do something to make her burden lighter!

### Teddy Guiao

Lower Navy Hill, Saipan

### Unforgivable mistake

Dear Gov. Inos and members of the Legislature: If the casino investors guarantee that they will pay the \$700 million debt to our retirement and invest in our CUC and hospital by providing us financial assistance to hire doctors, nurses, technicians, and other professionals to improve the services, then I would agree and support your decision to sign the casino bill. But for only \$15 million—and that is not even guaranteed—I really don't understand how you could agree to this bill.

Your behavior is questionable and shameful to our investors. You always express investor-friendly behavior yet you members of the Legislature are not showing it.

You must have a very good reason for behaving in that manner. Not having a good reason requires that you apologize to the people of CNMI and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for your behavior and seek their advice on how they can help us resolve our financial difficulties. Don't make another suicide attempt because we only die once. Everyone makes mistake. Making an unintentional mistake can be forgiven. But making a mistake intentionally is unforgivable. We really want to know what reason made you behave that way.

### Winnie Atalig

San Jose, Tinian

### The facts

Four years ago Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola pleaded for our vote of confidence, stating that he is focused and determined to improve the livelihood of the people of Rota. After four years in office, residents say: "It's very hard living on Rota due to everything going up and our salaries are still the same, the cost of living here is you need to be a director or well-connected to the government." "Gas price is too high and stores are to expensive. We need to improve our port of entry." "Life is a struggle on Rota." "The high cost of power and prices of our commodities are just too damn ridiculous, at times we think about moving away from our beautiful island but then again we say 'Oh, let's just see the next year how will it turn out...but then same old, same old \$#!%." Shortages, shortages, shortages!

He said he had plans and vision to bring our lives back in order—a community man who lends a helping hand, known for his charisma and a man of great compassion. A person of great compassion has a mind wishing to protect all human beings from suffering. Yet, over political views as people exercised their right to choose freely and he terminated them from employment without cause!

He described himself as a person with courage, truthfulness, and dignity and respect toward his fellow men, with a balanced temperament as his distinguishable trait. He ran on the slogan "Common cause for common good." In his inaugural pledge over four years ago to the people of Rota, he offered an open and accountable leadership and expected all department and agencies to open their doors

and be all out in providing the best services the people deserves. What happened to our healthcare and the safety of our people?

He said he will work on improving the island economy through sound practices that will promote and encourage foreign and local investments. And his ultimate goal was to meet the level of revenue generated by private sector. Where are the improvements and investors?

He also called for understanding and patience, saying that progress will not materialize overnight. it's been over four years and nothing has materialized Mr. Mayor!

And yet he wants a second term? We all need second thoughts! How much more can one stand to live in poverty? Rota is at poverty level! He had three good years of the people's patience and understanding. It's he who does not understand the very need of this community! Risking the lives of the innocent by neglecting emergency needs. How much can we trust him with our lives? Never once did he admit his failure as a citizen, nor as a leader. Where is the good of the cause? Bob Marley said, "and you say you care, but the people keep suffering." Metka, stand down now! The people have heard enough dead promises! How much longer can one suffer to say this it, enough already? You have lost the confidence of your people.

### Garren M. Quitugua

Igua, Rota

**12** TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

### The Weather

### 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼76°





Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲ 88° ▼ 76°

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲88° ▼76°** 



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲ 88°** ▼ **76°** 



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲88° ▼76°** 

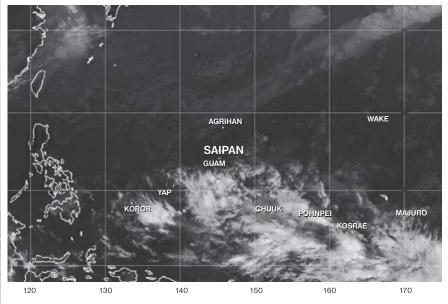
### **Micronesia**

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 85	<b>▼</b> 77
Palau	Showers	<b>▲</b> 86	<b>▼</b> 74
Yap	Thunderstorms	<b>▲</b> 88	<b>▼</b> 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	<b>≜</b> 86	<b>▼</b> 80
Pohnpei	Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 87	<b>▼</b> 78
Kosrae	Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 87	<b>▼</b> 78
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 87	₩81

#### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 73	<b>▼</b> 60
Beijing	Showers	<b>▲</b> 56	₹38
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 71	<b>▼</b> 65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 78	<b>▼</b> 68
London	Windy	<b>▲</b> 58	₹45
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 76	<b>▼</b> 55
Manila	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 90	₹75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 69	<b>▼</b> 50
Miami 7	Thundershowers	s <b>≜</b> 80	▼67
New York	Sunny	<b>▲</b> 42	▼32
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 59	▼49
Paris	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 62	<b>▼</b> 43
Pusan	Showers	<b>▲</b> 54	₹42
Rome	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 65	<b>▼</b> 50
Salem	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 57	▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	<b>≜</b> 68	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 55	▼37
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 56	<b>▼</b> 48
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	<b>4</b> 35	▼33

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from northeast of Minami Tori Shima at 25N158E to 17N142E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A weak tropical disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from across Chuuk and Pohnpei states to south of Guam between the equator and 10N from 150E to 160E and within 200 miles of a line from 10N141E to 7N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also present east of Koror within 125 miles of a line from 8N136E to 6N139E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kosrae and across Butaritari south of a line from 7N160E to 4N166E to 4N180.

	Ti	ides	
Saipan Ha	arbor		
3:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:3t8 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sun	Mo.		
Today	6:23 AM	6:28 PM	Today
Wednesday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM	Wednesday
Thursday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM	Thursday
Friday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM	Friday
Saturday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM	Saturday

Moor	rrise/Moor	ıset
Today	7:45 PM	7:06 AM
Wednesday	8:37 PM	7:48 AM
Thursday	9:32 PM	8:33 AM
Friday	10:27 PM	9:21 AM
Saturday	11:24 PM	10:12 AM

### GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following

#### **PICTURES** ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**■ TRÁVELOGUE** 

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. ■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb). ■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),
- the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

### For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or iavvee valleiera@saipantribune.com

Beach Road Garanan Sainan

■ Fax: (670) 235-3740 ■ Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center

To check if contributions are 6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

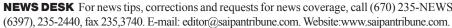
### **POLICY**

- The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions the date of publication size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print electronic or other media formats
- The Saipan Tribune will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

  For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right
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**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PU UA5070 UA5038 UA5038 UA5078 UA5078 UA50778 UA5079 UA5039 ROTA (ROP)-GUAM UA5039 SAIPAN-NARITA (NI DZI19 SAIPAN-BUSAN (PL 0Z608 SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICI 0Z606 DZ102	4:15am 4:15am 8:40am 1:35pm 2:20pm 6:05pm 9:50pm 1:35pm (GUM) 2:40pm	5:05am 9:30am 3:10pm 3:10pm 6:55pm 10:40pm 2:10pm 3:10pm 6:40am	Daily Daily 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota 2, 3, 6 Daily Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAI UA5069 UA5070 UA5039 UA5038  UA5077 UA5079  GUAM (GUM)-RO UA5038  ROTA (ROP)-SAII UA5038	2:45am 7:15am 12:10pm 12:10pm 4:45pm 8:30pm <b>TA (ROP)</b>		Daily Daily 1, 4, 5, 7 2, 3, 6 via Rota Daily Daily 2, 3, 6
UA5070 UA5068 UA5039 UA5038 UA5078 UA5072  SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP UA5039  ROTA (ROP)-GUAM UA5039  SAIPAN-OSAKA (KI. OZI19  SAIPAN-HARITA (NI DL287 DL297 SAIPAN-BUSAN (PL OZ608  SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICI OZ606 D2102	4:15am 8:40am 1:35pm 2:20pm 6:05pm 9:50pm 1:35pm (GUM) 2:40pm X) 4:00am RT) 6:00am	9:30am 3:10pm 3:10pm 6:55pm 10:40pm 2:10pm	Daily 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota 2, 3, 6 Daily Daily 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5069 UA5071 UA5039 UA5038 UA5077 UA5079 <b>GUAM (GUM)-RO</b> UA5038 <b>ROTA (ROP)-SAII</b> UA5038	2:45am 7:15am 12:10pm 12:10pm 4:45pm 8:30pm <b>TA (ROP)</b> 12:10pm	8:05am 1:00pm 1:50pm 5:35pm 9:20pm	Daily 1, 4, 5, 7 2, 3, 6 via Rota Daily Daily
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UA5038 UA5038 UA5078 UA5078 UA5072  SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP UA5039  ROTA (ROP)-GUAM UA5039  SAIPAN-OSAKA (KI. OZ119  SAIPAN-NARITA (NI DL287 DL297  SAIPAN-BUSAN (PL OZ608  SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICI OZ606 DZ102	8:40am 1:35pm 2:20pm 6:05pm 9:50pm 1:35pm (GUM) 2:40pm 4:00am RT) 6:00am	9:30am 3:10pm 3:10pm 6:55pm 10:40pm 2:10pm	Daily 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota 2, 3, 6 Daily Daily 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5071 UA5039 UA5038 UA5077 UA5079 <b>GUAM (GUM)-RO</b> UA5038 <b>ROTA (ROP)-SAII</b> UA5038	7:15am 12:10pm 12:10pm 4:45pm 8:30pm <b>TA (ROP)</b> 12:10pm	8:05am 1:00pm 1:50pm 5:35pm 9:20pm	Daily 1, 4, 5, 7 2, 3, 6 via Rota Daily Daily
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		7:10pm	Daily				eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI				SHANGHAI (PVG)			
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SAIPAN-GUANZHOU				GUANZHOU (CAN			
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		11:15am	1 via ICN	07704/603	12:10am	2-20nm	Daily
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UA5070/191	4:15am	9:05am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	1:30am+1	Daily via NR
DL287/473	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 7 via Gua
UA5068/PR111	8:40am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA190/5079	10:00am	5:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
			via GUM	0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5039/183		9:30pm	5 via Guam	0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
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1145020402	2,20	0.20	via Guam	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
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		10:35pm 10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM 3, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	11·10nm	8:05am+1	via ICN 1, 3, 5, 6
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LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines: OZ: Asiana: VLK: Vladivostok Air: SYL: Yakutia Air: D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

### FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA Fr	equency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily				,
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota			,	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily				'
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

### NMI CRIME **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■ \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014 13



### elta named 2014 Fortune's most admired airline

named in the top 50 of *FORTUNE* magazine's "2014 World's Most Admired Companies" at number 48. At the same time, the company

four years.

<u>Delta CEO Richard Anderson, who</u> announced the good news to the all and great accomplishments of Delta's nearly 80,000 people worldwide who are clearly focused on making Delta a

and a better place to work."

"Thank you for your continued focus on living by our Rules of the Road and executing on our Flight truly the most admired employees in the global airline business," Ander-son added.

Delta's overall score in FORTUNE

FORTUNE's top 50 rankings are based on a survey that asks top executives and directors in all industries to

admire, regardless of industry, from a

predetermined list.
"Delta people have worked hard over the last several years to lead the way to a more sustainable future for ments in facilities in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle and Atlanta," Ander-son said. "[We] strengthened partner-ships with Virginia Atlantic Airways, Aeromexico, and GOL, innovated by purchasing an oil refinery to help reour fleet by reducing the number of 50-seat aircraft we fly, and invested in improving our product and the customer experience.

"In January, we celebrated a record 2013 profit, resulting in our largest profit sharing payout in history of \$506 million earlier. We've stock price increase by more than 200 percent since 2011. Our 2013 operational is unheard of in our industry," he said.

Its profit figure explains how Delta

landed on the magazine. With \$37.8 billion in revenue in 2013, Delta actually trailed the sales of both the combined American and US Airways (\$40.3 billion) and United Continental (\$38.3 billion). But Delta earned a

record for the company—and based on its 15 percent return on invested capital on the total of equity and debt,

our people—the best in the business. It is clear that when we work together we can achieve great things. As we keep our backpacks on in 2014, we must continue to set the pace for the industry," Anderson said. "As always, it is an honor to serve and work alongside you. Thank you for all you do to make Delta the world's most admired airline." (Jayson Camacho)

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

### China e-commerce giant Alibaba to list in US

HONG KONG (AP)—Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group plans to go public on a U.S. stock exchange, possibly raising up to \$15 billion in the biggest initial public offering since Facebook. The announcement Sunday confirming plans for a U.S. share sale ended months of speculation over where the company would list after talks for an initial public offering in Hong Kong fell apart last year. Alibaba is one of the world's biggest Internet companies and says more than \$150 billion worth of merchandise changes hands on its online platforms each year, more than Amazon and eBay combined.

### 16 killed in stampedes for jobs in Nigeria

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—At least 16 people were killed in stampedes for government jobs in Nigeria when hundreds of thousands were invited to apply for fewer than 5,000 positions, officials and activists said Sunday. Interior Minister Abba Moro held the applicants responsible, saying they "lost their lives through their impatience." Activists blamed his ministry and called for him to be fired. Emergency officials said the death toll could rise. Nigerians are desperate for work, with official statistics putting the number of unemployed at nearly 41 million of the 170 million population. Unemployment among young people aged under-24 is even higher—38 percent according to official statistics and nearer 80 percent, according to the World Bank.

### EU mulling next steps against Russia over Ukraine

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—The European Union on Sunday condemned the referendum in Ukraine's Crimea as illegal and is taking steps to increase sanctions against Russia over what many believe is a planned annexation of the bordering peninsula.

The contested vote on Crimea joining Russia further acerbated relations with Moscow, which has changed from a wary partner to a diplomatic adversary in the space of a few months. But the EU increasingly realizes change might not be imminent.

"We cannot have any short-term hopes now that the situation regarding Crimea can be changed so quickly," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told ZDF television. "I assume Russia has made all the preparations to bring Crimea into Russian

Presidents Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin of Russia spoke after Crimea eign Secretary William Hague that

residents voted overwhelmingly to join Russia. Obama told Putin that the referendum would never be recognized by Washington. Obama also told him the vote violates the Ukrainian constitution and occurred under duress of Russian military intervention. He said the U.S. was prepared to impose additional penalties on Russia.

On Monday, EU foreign ministers will decide whether to impose asset freeze and visa sanctions and, if so, who to target. Further measures could be taken at an EU summit meeting of government leaders starting Thursday.

"The referendum is illegal and illegitimate and its outcome will not be recognized," European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said in a joint statement Sunday.

Britain, France and Germany echoed the statement by British ForMoscow must face "economic and political consequences."

EU diplomats were working feverishly over the weekend to set up a list of Russian and Moscow-leaning officials from Ukraine who have been involved in pushing for the southern peninsula's secession and possible annexation. Diplomats said member states arrived at weekend talks with different suggestions, so a common list could be drawn up for Monday's meeting of the 28 foreign ministers to make a final decision.

The joint Van Rompuy-Barroso statement said the foreign ministers will "decide on additional measures" against Russia on Monday.

They would likely include military officials who ordered Ukrainian troops to leave their barracks in Crimea and others who were responsible for breakaway actions there. On the other hand, diplomats said they would shy away from economic operators at the moment.

Depending on developments in Moscow and Ukraine, further sanctions could follow during a two-day summit of EU leaders starting on Thursday.

An EU summit last week suspended talks with Russia on a wide-ranging economic pact and a visa agreement.

On top of that, the EU could move quickly, possibly within a week, to sign the political chapters of a far-reaching association agreement with the provisional government in Kiev, underscoring its support for the new Ukraine government.

EU diplomats in several capitals made it clear the West is unwilling to give up Crimea in the hope of preventing Moscow from moving into eastern Ukraine.

With further unrest in Russia-leaning eastern Ukraine expected, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius called on Moscow "to immediately take measures to avoid a dangerous and useless

### Final words from jet came after systems shutdown

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—When someone at the controls calmly said the last words heard from the missing Malaysian jetliner, one of the Boeing 777's communications systems had already been disabled, authorities said, adding to suspicions that one or both of the pilots were involved in the disappearance of the flight.

Investigators also were examining a flight simulator confiscated from the home of one of the pilots and dug through the background of all 239 people on board, as well as the ground crew that serviced the plane.

The Malaysia Airlines jet took off from Kuala Lumpur in the wee hours of March 8, headed to Beijing. On

Saturday, the Malaysian government announced findings that strongly suggested the plane was deliberately diverted and may have flown as far north as Central Asia or south into the vast reaches of the Indian Ocean.

Authorities have said someone on board the plane first disabled one of its communications systems—the Aircraft and Communications Addressing and Reporting System, or ACARS—about 40 minutes after takeoff. The ACARS equipment sends information about the jet's engines and other data to the airline.

About 14 minutes later, the transponder that identifies the plane to commercial radar systems was also shut down. The fact that both systems went dark separately offered strong evidence that the plane's disappearance was deliberate.

On Sunday, Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein told a news conference that the final, reassuring words from the cockpit—"All right, good night"—were spoken to air traffic controllers after the ACARS system was shut off. Whoever spoke did not mention any trouble on board.

Air force Maj. Gen. Affendi Buang told reporters he did not know whether it was the pilot or co-pilot who spoke to air traffic controllers.

Given the expanse of land and water that might need to be searched, finding the wreckage could take months or longer. Or it might never be located.

Establishing what happened with any degree of certainty will probably require evidence from cockpit voice recordings and the plane's flight-data recorders.

The search area now includes 11 countries the plane might have flown over, Hishammuddin said, adding that the number of countries involved in the operation had increased from 14 to 25.

"The search was already a highly complex, multinational effort," he said. "It has now become even more difficult."

The search effort initially focused on the relatively shallow waters of the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca, where the plane was first thought to be.

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### **Nation**

### US expected to announce sanctions against Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. and its allies in Europe are expected to announce sanctions against Russia, including visa bans and potential asset freezes, on Monday, one day after Crimea's vote to secede from Ukraine and join Russia.

President Barack Obama told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday that Crimea's vote "would never be recognized" by the United States, as he and other top U.S. officials warned Moscow against making further military moves toward southern and eastern Ukraine.

The two leaders spoke after residents in Crimea voted overwhelmingly in favor of the split in a referendum that the United States, European Union and others say violates the Ukrainian constitution and international law and took place in the strategic peninsula under duress of Russian military intervention. Putin maintained that the vote was legal and consistent with the right of self-determination, according to the Kremlin.

But the White House said Obama reminded Putin that the U.S. and its allies in Europe would impose sanctions against Russia should it annex Crimea.

During the call, which came amid an exchange of decidedly Cold War-style rhetoric between East and West, Obama urged Putin to pursue a diplomatic de-



President Barack Obama meets with Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Friday, March 14, 2014. The president said he and the prime minister discussed Ukraine during an Oval Office meeting.

escalation of the crisis, support the Ukraine government's plans for political reform, return its troops in Crimea to their bases, and halt advances into Ukrainian territory and military buildups along Ukraine's borders.

Obama told Putin that "a diplomatic resolution cannot

be achieved while Russian military forces continue their incursions into Ukrainian territory and that the large-scale Russian military exercises on Ukraine's borders only exacerbate the tension," the White House said in a statement.

Even before official results

of the referendum were announced, the White House de-

decisions should be made about the future of Ukraine without the Ukrainian government" and noting that Russia had rejected the deployment of international monitors in Crimea to ensure the rights of ethnic Russians there were protected.

"Russia has spurned those calls as well as outreach from the Ukrainian government and instead has escalated its military intervention into Crimea and initiated threatening military exercises on Ukraine's eastern border," the White House said, calling those actions "dangerous and destabilizing,"

But with no military response envisioned, and with U.S. and EU sanctions apparently foregone conclusions, the Obama administration slightly shifted its focus to keeping Russia from encroachment into Ukraine beyond Crimea, where it has a large naval base.

U.S. officials warned that any Russia moves on east and south Ukraine would be a grave escalation requiring additional responses.

In a call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Secretary of State John Kerry expressed "strong concerns" about Russian military activities in the southern Ukrainian region of Kherson, where Russian troops appeared Saturday, and about "continuing provocations" in cities in east Ukraine, the State Department said.

Kerry "made clear that this crisis can only be resolved politically and that as Ukrainians take the necessary political measures going forward, Russia must reciprocate by pulling forces back to base and addressing the tensions and concerns about military engagement," it said.

He also urged Russia "to support efforts by Ukrainians across the spectrum to address power sharing and decentralization through a constitutional reform process that is broadly inclusive and protects the rights of minorities," including ethnic Russians, Russian speakers and others in the former Soviet republic whom Russia says it is concerned about, the department said.

The call was the second between Kerry and Lavrov since they had six hours of unsuccessful face-to-face talks on London on Friday.

### Stepmom: Ex-Hawaii soldier's daughter hit often

HONOLULU (AP)—The stepmother of a 5-year-old girl who prosecutors allege was beaten to death by her father testified Friday that she and the former Hawaii soldier abused the girl regularly and that they pulled her out of school so that others wouldn't see the signs the abuse left on the child's body.

Delilah Williams testified for the prosecution in the capital murder trial against Naeem Williams that they decided to pull the girl, Talia, out of elementary school because they worried that school officials would notice the abuse and have them arrested.

"She started having marks on her body," Delilah Williams said, noting that she and Naeem Williams dressed the girl in clothes that covered the marks while the special-needs child was still enrolled in school then left her at home by herself after they pulled her from classes.

The testimony will satisfy terms of a plea deal the stepmother made with prosecutors in which she acknowledged her role in killing the child as part of a pattern and practice of assault and torture. The agreement calls for a 20-year sentence.

Delilah Williams - who worked as an administrator registering children for daycare at Schofield Barracks - said she and the father repeatedly cursed at Talia, called her names and hit her almost daily. She said the child slept on the floor of an empty bedroom and was denied food for two or three days at a time.

Williams said she was mandated to report suspected abuse as part of her job.

Naeem Williams could face the death penalty if convicted of murder in the July 16, 2005, death. The federal trial allows prosecutors to pursue the death penalty in a state that doesn't have capital punishment.

Delilah Williams said Naeem Williams bound the girl to a bedpost with duct tape before beating her with a belt. In one of those taping incidents, she said, she recalled the child having a "pleading look."

The stepmother said she attempted the taping routine once herself, but she found it wasn't effective because the girl was still able to squirm around.

"It required too much effort, also, so I decided not to do it again," she said.

Much of her testimony was delivered with an even, calm voice. But she sounded like she was going to cry when she described a beating she inflicted on June 29, 2005.

Williams said she came home from work that day and saw that Talia had wet herself.

"I started stomping on her," she said. "I just continued stomping on her until it felt like a bone cracked under my foot and she defecated on herself."

She forced the child to sit on a toilet and pushed on her stomach so hard that a toilet pipe broke, causing a leak. She said she then grabbed Talia by the hair and slammed her head against a wall.

"I left to get my nails done," she said.

It wasn't the first time she grabbed the child by the hair, she said, describing a time when she pulled Talia by the hair at the top of her head because she was slow going up the stairs. "A big chunk of her hair" came out, she said.

"Everything that I did to her was all wrong," she said, but that the stomping was the most "severe" incident.

She also described another incident when her husband punched the child in the stomach for eating a doughnut. The girl wasn't allowed to go downstairs to eat while she was home alone, Delilah Williams said.

The stepmother said the day Talia died, the girl walked backward out of her bedroom, during a belt-beating from her father, with her hands in front of her saying things like "no daddy," and "can we stop now?"

nounced the vote, saying "no Newtown struggles to meet mental health demand

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)— Some of the charities paying for mental health care for children and families affected by the Sandy Hook massacre are running short of money and officials don't know how much they'll need - and for how long to repair the psychological scars from the mass shooting.

Newtown officials are applying for a federal grant and charities are pooling their resources in an attempt to ensure that free long-term mental health care remains available following the December 2012 shooting that left 20 first graders and six educators dead.

"We hear in the media, Well Sandy Hook was 14 months ago, isn't everything fine?" said Candice Bohr, executive director of the Newtown Youth and Family Services. "Well, no it's not and we get calls every day from the school wanting to address an issue. I would love to say that in 10 years we're going to see a huge drop and everyone's better and we've moved on, but that's not the case."

Three of the charities that have been providing funds for services have started working together, while the charity that has raised the most money - the Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation - says that it will likely join the alliance soon.

The Newtown Lions Club,

which raised \$350,000 for mental-health services in the wake of the shooting, has told the 250 people it served that it could no longer directly pay their mental health bills because fundraising was being outpaced by demand.

"The demand was well beyond anything we could have predicted," said Peter McNulty, president of the Lions Club.

Other charities are picking up the slack. The town's Rotary Club and the Newtown Memorial Fund, which had been spending a combined \$30,000 a month on mental health care for 150 families, partnered with the Lions Club, said Brian Mauriello, founder of the Newtown Memorial Fund.

### 9/11 mastermind: Spokesman had no military role

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The selfdescribed mastermind of the was part of al-Qaida's deadly Sept. 11 attacks says a onetime Osama bin Laden spokesman who is on trial in New York had no role in planning military operations for al-Qaida.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed said in a statement filed in Manhattan federal court late Sunday that Sulaiman Abu Ghaith served as an al-Qaida spokesman because he was "an eloquent, spellbinding speaker."

But Abu Gaith, Mohammed said, "was not a military man and had nothing to do with military operations."

Abu Gaith, who is a son-in-law of bin Laden, is charged with conspiring to kill Americans.

plot in his role as spokesman in fiery videos and as a motivational speaker at the group's training camps in Afghanistan.

Abu Ghaith's lawyers have said the Kuwait-born imam made inflammatory remarks but didn't conspire to carry out terrorism.

Defense lawyers are seeking to use testimony from Mohammed, who is in a detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They would need U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan's approval to introduce the information.

The defense has suggested Mohammed could help rebut

Prosecutors say Abu Ghaith the government's claim that Abu Ghaith must have known in advance of al-Qaida's socalled shoe bomb airplane plots, including Richard Reid's attempt to carry one out in December 2001.

> The statement from Mohammed filed Sunday consisted of answers he gave to questions posed by Abu Ghaith's lawyers.

> In the statement, Mohammed said he never spoke with Abu Ghaith about the shoe bomb operation and added, "those tasked with giving statements to the media do not necessarily know all the details of an operation and are sometimes even unaware of the very existence of the operation."

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### Asia

### Malaysia's handling of lost plane irritates China

**BEIJING** (AP)—The search for a missing jetliner with Chinese travelers aboard has revealed the limits of Beijing's influence in its own backyard and left communist leaders facing outrage from their public.

Beijing has demanded Malaysia do more to find the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner. But despite sending nine ships to help in the search, China appears to have little leverage over its far smaller Southeast Asian neighbor.

The situation is especially uncomfortable for Chinese leaders because part of the ruling Communist Party's claim to a monopoly on power is that it is best qualified to look after the public's interests. The rise of social media and the increased willingness of China's public to assert its rights adds to the pressure to find the 154 Chinese among the 227 missing passengers.

There is "very likely a lot more pressure from the domestic community in China on Beijing to make sure that Chinese nationals are being protected," said Marc Lanteigne, research director at the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington.

Anxious relatives have thronged a temporary Malaysia Airlines office set up in a Beijing hotel and accuse Malaysian officials and the carrier of withholding information.

"Some of the information released by the Malaysian government and airline turns out to be true, some turns out to be false," said Nan Jinyan, a woman from Shanghai whose brother-in-law was aboard the flight. "I believe they are still deciding which information to release and which isn't convenient to release right now."

China has the world's secondlargest military budget, at \$114 billion last year, and has spent heavily on expanding the ability of its navy to project power farther from its shores. But the search that began in the Gulf of Thailand on the edge of the South China Sea, which China claims as its territorial waters, has relied heavily on expertise from the United States and Britain on the other side of the globe.

China is the biggest trading partner for most of its Asian neighbors, buying tens of billions of dollars' worth of raw materials and components from them annually. Yet despite such incentives for cooperation, countries from Vietnam to Australia are uneasy about China's ambitions, which has hampered its efforts to acquire influence.

Beijing has resorted to taking the unusual step of publicly haranguing Malaysia's government, a sign that whatever pressure it is applying in private is failing to produce results.

After Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said Saturday that the Boeing 777 might have flown beyond the current search area, Beijing reacted with fury, a sign that the announcement took it by surprise.

A deputy Chinese foreign minister demanded "more thorough and accurate information" about the new search area.

A stinging commentary by China's official Xinhua News Agency accused Malaysia and the United States of dragging their feet.

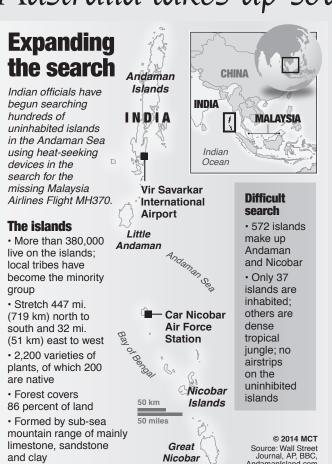
"Given today's technology, the delay smacks of either dereliction of duty or reluctance to share information in a full and timely manner," Xinhua said. It said Malaysia "bears inescapable responsibility."

Xinhua said the plane's manufacturer, Boeing Co., and the maker of its engines, Britain's Rolls Royce plc, as well as "intelligence superpower the United States," with access to valuable information, "should also have done a better job."



Chinese relatives of passengers aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines plane walk out from a hotel room after attending a briefing by Malaysia Airlines in Beijing, China Sunday, March 16, 2014.

### Australia takes up southern search for plane



**KUALA LUMPUR, Malay**sia (AP)—Australia took the lead Monday in searching for the missing Boeing 777 over the southern Indian Ocean as Malaysia appealed for radar data and search planes to help in the unprecedented hunt through a vast swath of Asia stretching northwest into Kazakhstan.

Investigators say Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 was deliberately diverted and its communications equipment switched off shortly after takeoff during an overnight flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8. Suspicion has fallen on anyone aboard the plane with aviation experience, in particular the pilot and co-pilot.

Malaysian police confiscated a flight simulator from the home of the pilot Saturday and also visited the home of the copilot, in what Malaysia's police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said Sunday was the first visit to their homes. The government issued a statement Monday contradicting that account by saying that police first visited the pilots' home on March 9, the day after the flight.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott told parliament that he agreed to take the lead scouring the southern Indian Ocean for the "ill-fated aircraft" during a conversation Monday with Malaysia's leader Najib Razak. Australia already has had two AP-3C Orion aircraft involved in the search, one of them looking north and west of the remote Cocos Islands.

Malaysian authorities have said that satellite signal or "ping" received from the jet carrying 239 people more than seven hours after it took off shows that it also may have entered a northern corridor stretching over land from Southeast Asia northwest into Central Asia.

Twenty-six countries are involved in the search, the government said in a statement Monday.

### Seoul: NKorea test-fires 25 short-range rockets

**SEOUL, South Korea** North Korea says the drills short-range rockets into the sea off its east coast Sunday in an apparent continuation of protests against ongoing U.S.-South Korean military drills, South Korean officials said.

Such short-range rocket tests are usually considered routine, as opposed to North Korean long-range rocket or nuclear tests, which are internationally condemned as provocations. North Korea has conducted a string of similar short-range launches in recent weeks that have coincided with the annual military drills by allies Washington and Seoul.

(AP)-North Korea fired 25 are preparation for an invasion. The allies say the exer cises, which last year prompted North Korean threats of nuclear war against the South and the United States, are routine and defensive in nature.

> Outside analysts say the North is taking a softer stance toward the U.S.-South Korean military drills this year because it wants better ties with the outside world to revive its struggling economy. North Korea's tirade of war rhetoric against Washington and Seoul last spring followed international condemnation of its third nuclear test, in Febru-

### PH rejects Chinese demand to remove ship

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The Philippines on Friday rejected a Chinese demand that it remove a grounded navy ship from a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, saying the vessel is a permanent government outpost.

China's coast guard prevented two Philippine civilian vessels from delivering supplies to the rusting ship at Second Thomas Shoal on Sunday, escalating tensions in the area. The Philippines and the U.S. have called Beijing's action provocative. The shoal is called Ayungin in the Philippines and

Ren'ai Reef in China.

The ship "was placed in Ayungin Shoal in 1999 to serve as a permanent Philippine government installation in response to China's illegal occupation of Mischief Reef in 1995," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said in a statement Friday. Mischief Reef is another Philippine-claimed outcropping in the disputed Spratly islands in the South China Sea.

"The Philippines reiterates that Ayungin Shoal is part of its continental shelf over which the Philippines has sov-

ereign rights and jurisdiction," Hernandez said.

Philippine officials have previously said the military hospital ship ran aground in 1999 on the shallow coral reef and could not be removed because of a lack of funds and capability. Friday's statement was the first acknowledgement that the ship was deliberately sent to the shoal as a government outpost.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea, resourcerich waters where other neighboring nations also have claims.

On Thursday, a Philippine security official said the navy

would send supplies on other vessels to the soldiers stationed on the grounded ship because the men were running short of food and water. The official, who did not want to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss the matter with the media, did not say when the supplies would be dispatched.

He said a small navy plane had dropped several days' worth of drinking water to the troops.

"It's not that we're trying to court China's ire." he said. "We do not want to starve our people to death."

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### World

# Crimeans vote to leave Ukraine, join Russia

SIMFEROPOL, (AP)—Just two weeks after Russian troops seized their peninsula, Crimeans voted Sunday to leave Ukraine and join Russia, overwhelmingly approving a referendum that sought to unite the strategically important Black Sea region with the country it was part of for some 250 years.

The vote was widely con-

Ukraine demned by Western leaders, who planned to move swiftly to punish Russia with economic sanctions.

MOSCOW (AP)—Final results of the referendum in Crimea show that 97 percent of voters have supported leaving Ukraine to join Russia, the head of the referendum election commission said Monday.

televised news conference that final tally from Sunday's vote was 96.8 percent in favor of splitting from Ukraine. He also said that the commission has not registered a single complaint about the vote.

The referendum was widely condemned by Western leaders who were planning to discuss economic sanctions

Mikhail Malyshev told a to punish Russia on Monday. Ukraine's new government in Kiev called the referendum a "circus" directed at gunpoint by Moscow.

As the votes were counted, a jubilant crowd gathered around a statue of Vladimir Lenin in the center of Simferopol to celebrate with song and dance. Many held Russian flags, and some unfurled a handwritten banner reading "We're Russian and proud of it." Fireworks exploded in the skies above.

"We want to go back home, and today we are going back home," said Viktoria Chernyshova, a 38-year-old businesswoman. "We needed to save ourselves from those unprincipled clowns who have taken power in Kiev."

Ukraine's new government in Kiev called the referendum a "circus" directed at gunpoint by Moscow, referring to the thousands of troops that now occupy the peninsula, which has traded hands repeatedly since ancient times.

The referendum offered voters the choice of seeking annexation by Russia or remaining in Ukraine with greater autonomy. After 50 percent of the ballots were counted, more than 95 percent of voters had approved splitting off and joining Russia, according to Mikhail Malishev, head of the referendum committee.

Final results were not expected until Monday.

Opponents of secession appeared to have stayed away Sunday, denouncing the vote as a cynical power play and land grab by Russia.

### Obama, Palestinian leader meet as deadline nears

WASHINGTON deadline fast approaching, President Barack Obama is seeking to ease the logiam in elusive Mideast peace talks and keep Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas from walking away, despite few signs that either Palestinians or Israelis are prepared to budge on key sticking points.

Obama's White House meeting with the longtime Palestinian leader Monday marks a renewed foray into a diplomatic minefield that the president has mostly left up to his secretary of state, John Kerry. While Kerry remains deeply involved, his attention is split among multiple undertakings in the Middle East—not to mention a crisis in Ukraine that's consumed Obama's national security team.

With just weeks left before a U.S.-imposed April deadline for completing a framework for peace talks expires, Obama is inserting himself in the process with fresh vigor, hoping that presidential pressure impossible to solve.

(AP)—A might salvage the talks despite a growing sense of pessimism on both sides. Just two weeks ago, Obama held a similar meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in which he urged Israel to make the "tough decisions" needed to move forward.

> Absent signs of progress, attention has turned to whether the parties might agree to extend the deadline if a formal framework can't be forged in time.

Aaron David Miller, a Mideast peace negotiator under presidents of both parties, said both Abbas and Netanyahu have an incentive to stick with the talks—if only to avoid bearing the blame if the effort falters. After all, both Israelis and Palestinians have spent countless hours in direct and indirect contact, in what Kerry has warned could be the last chance for peace before demographics and fast-growing Israeli settlements make the conflict nearly



Pro-Russian people celebrate in the central square in Sevastopol, Ukraine, early Monday, March 17, 2014.

### US rejects Crimea vote, warns Russia on new moves

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Barack Obama told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday that Crimea's vote to secede from Ukraine and join Russia "would never be recognized" by the United States, as he and other top U.S. officials warned Moscow against making further military moves toward southern and eastern Ukraine.

The two leaders spoke after residents in Crimea voted overwhelmingly in favor of the split in a referendum that the United States, European Union and others say violates the Ukrainian constitution and international law and took place in the strategic peninsula under duress of Russian military intervention. Putin maintained that the vote was legal and consistent with the right of self-determination, according to the Kremlin. But the White House said Obama reminded Putin that the U.S. and its allies in Europe would impose sanctions against Russia should it annex Crimea. U.S. and EU sanctions are expected to be announced Monday.

In the call, which came amid a heightened exchange of decidedly Cold War-style rhetoric between East and West, Obama urged Putin to pursue a diplomatic de-escalation of the crisis, support the Ukraine government's plans for political reform, return its troops in Crimea to their bases, and halt advances into Ukrainian territory and military build-ups along Ukraine's borders.

Obama told Putin that "a diplomatic resolution cannot be achieved while Russian military forces continue their incursions into Ukrainian territory and that the large-scale Russian military exercises on Ukraine's borders only exacerbate the tension," the White House said in a statement.

Even before official results of the referendum were announced, the White House denounced the vote, saying "no decisions should be made about the future of Ukraine without the Ukrainian government" and noting that Russia had rejected the deployment of international

### **Russian troops near Ukraine**

Russia's Defense Ministry says thousands of Russian troops are conducting exercises until the end of March in these regions near Ukraine:



In Belarus Russia sent six jet fighters and three military transport planes to its ally

Source: AP, ESRI Graphic: Judy Treible, Melina Yingling

the rights of ethnic Russians there were protected.

"Russia has spurned those calls as well as outreach from the Ukrainian government and instead has escalated its

In Ukraine parliament voted Thursday to create 60,000-strong National Guard to help its struggling military

monitors in Crimea to ensure military intervention into Crimea and initiated threatening military exercises on Ukraine's eastern border," the White House said, calling those actions "dangerous and destabilizing,"

### **SEC.** WORLD BRIEFS

### **Ex-guerrilla declared El Salvador president**

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—El Salvador's Supreme Electoral Court has declared an ex-guerrilla from the country's civil war the president-elect after a tight, contested runoff. The court late Sunday also rejected a petition by the losing National Republican Alliance to annul the results of the March 9 vote because of electoral fraud. Salvador Sanchez Ceren, 69, of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, will take office June 1 and serve a fiveyear term. He will be the first former rebel commander to win the presidency of a nation where 76,000 died in a civil war. With about 3 million ballots cast, Sanchez Ceren defeated ARENA candidate Norman Quijano by little more than 6,300 votes.

### **Egypt crackdown brings most arrests in decades**

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's crackdown on Islamists has jailed 16,000 people over the past eight months in the country's biggest roundup in nearly two decades, according to previously unreleased figures from security officials. Rights activists say reports of abuses in prisons are mounting, with prisoners describing systematic beatings and miserable conditions for dozens packed into tiny cells. The Egyptian government has not released official numbers for those arrested in the sweeps since the military ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in July. But four senior officials—two from the Interior Ministry and two from the military—gave The Associated Press a count of 16,000.

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### Focus

# Pilot suicide a taboo topic in past crash probes

By NICK PERRY and ROD McGUIRK ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—As police investigate the two pilots of a Malaysian passenger jet that disappeared more than a week ago, a possibility they must consider—however remote and improbable—is that one of them committed suicide.

While such incidents have happened before, the topic remains almost taboo, with investigators and officials reluctant to conclude that a pilot purposely crashed a plane in order to commit suicide even when the evidence appears compelling.

A dozen years ago, U.S. investigators filed a final report into the 1999 crash of EgyptAir Flight 990, which plunged into the Atlantic Ocean near the Massachusetts island of Nantucket, killing all 217 aboard. They concluded that when copilot Gameel El-Batouty found himself alone on the flight deck, he switched off the auto-pilot, pointed the plane downward, and calmly repeated the phrase "I rely on God" over and over, 11 times in total.

Yet while the National Transportation Safety Board concluded that the co-pilot's actions caused the crash, they didn't use the word "suicide" in the main findings of their 160-page report, instead saying the reason for his actions "was not determined." Egyptian officials, meanwhile, rejected the notion of suicide altogether, insisting instead there was some mechanical reason for the crash.

There was also disagreement over the cause of the crash of SilkAir Flight 185, which plunged into a river in 1997 during a flight from Jakarta, Indonesia, to Singapore, killing all 104 passengers and crew. A U.S. investigation found that the Boeing 737 had been deliberately crashed, but an Indonesian investigation was inconclusive.

Mozambique officials have been investigating a crash that killed 33 people in November. They say preliminary investigations indicate that the pilot of the Mozambican Airline plane bound for Angola intentionally brought it down, and they're continuing to look into his possible motives.

A 2014 study by the Federal Aviation Administration indicates that in the U.S. at least, flying remains a remarkably safe mode of transport and pilot suicide is a rare occurrence.

The study found that during the 10 years ending in 2012, just eight of 2,758 fatal aviation accidents in the U.S. were caused by pilot suicide, a rate of 0.3 percent. The report found that all eight suicides were men,



Indonesian Navy pilots Maj. Bambang Edi Saputro, left, and 2nd Lt. Tri Laksono check their map during a search operation for the missing Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777 over the waters bordering Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand near the Malacca straits on Monday, March 10, 2014.

### 3 pieces of evidence point to jet's takeover

There are three pieces of evidence that aviation safety experts say make it clear the missing Malaysia Airlines jet was taken over by someone who was knowledgeable about how the plane worked.

### TRANSPONDER

One clue is that the plane's transponder a signal system that identifies the plane to radar—was shut off about an hour into the flight.

In order to do that, someone in the cockpit would have to turn a knob with multiple selections to the off position while pressing down at the same time, said John Goglia, a former member of the National Transportation Safety Board. That's something a pilot would know how to do, but it could also be learned by someone who researched the plane on the Internet, he said.

### **ACARS**

Another clue is that part of the Boeing 777's Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS) was shut off.

The system, which has two parts, is used to send short messages via a satel-

lite or VHF radio to the airline's home base. The information part of the system was shut down, but not the transmission part. In most planes, the information part of the system can be shut down by hitting cockpit switches in sequence in order to get to a computer screen where an option must be selected using a keypad, said Goglia, an expert on aircraft maintenance.

That's also something a pilot would know how to do, but that could also be discovered through research, he said.

But to turn off the other part of the ACARS, it would be necessary to go to an electronics bay beneath the cockpit. That's something a pilot wouldn't normally know how to do, Goglia said, and it wasn't done in the case of the Malaysia plane. Thus, the ACARS transmitter continued to send out blips that were recorded by the Inmarsat satellite once an hour for four to five hours after the transponder was turned off. The blips don't contain any messages or data, but the satellite can tell in a very broad way what region the blips are coming from and adjusts the angle of its antenna to be ready to receive message in case the ACARS sends them. Investigators are now trying to use data from the satellite to identify the region where the plane was when its last blip was sent.

### **GUIDED FLIGHT**

The third indication is that that after the transponder was turned off and civilian radar lost track of the plane, Malaysian military radar was able to continue to track the plane as it turned west.

The plane was then tracked along a known flight route across the peninsula until it was several hundred miles (kilometers) offshore and beyond the range of military radar. Airliners normally fly from waypoint to waypoint where they can be seen by air traffic controllers who space them out so they don't collide. These lanes in the sky aren't straight lines. In order to follow that course, someone had to be guiding the plane. Goglia said

to be guiding the plane, Goglia said.
Goglia said he is very skeptical of reports the plane was flying erratically while it was being tracked by military radar, including steep ascents to very high altitudes and then sudden, rapid descents. Without a transponder signal, the ability to track planes isn't reliable at very high altitudes or with sudden shifts in altitude, he said. (AP)

with four of them testing positive for alcohol and two for anti-depressants.

The cases ranged from a pi-depressants cases involved the death of only the pilot; in the eighth case, a pilot to passenger also died.

The cases ranged from a pi-depressant cases involved the death of only the pilot; in the eighth case, a pilot to passenger also died.

The cases ranged from a pilot celebrating his 21st birthday who realized a woman didn't want a relationship with him, to a 69-year-old pilot with a history of drinking and threatening suicide by plane. Seven of the "Aircraft-assisted suicides are tragic, intentional events that are hard to predict and difficult to prevent," the FAA's report found, adding that such suicides "are most likely under-reported and under-recognized."

In at least one case, a major international airline allowed a pilot who had expressed suicidal thoughts to continue flying. He flew nearly three more years, without incident, before he resigned in 1982 with severe obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety and depression.

The Sydney Morning Her-

ald newspaper reported that the Workers Compensation Commission heard that the Qantas pilot struggled several times to resist an overwhelming urge to switch off the plane's engines. Once during a flight to Singapore, the pilot's hand moved "involuntarily" toward the start levers and he was forced to "im-

mobilize his left arm in order not to act on the compulsion."

"He left the flight deck and, once he felt calm enough, returned to his seat," the newspaper reported.

After telling his colleagues of his urges, the newspaper said, the pilot was examined by several doctors and ultimately declared fit to fly.

Malaysia's government said police on Saturday searched the homes of both the pilot and the co-pilot of the missing Malaysia Airlines jet. It said police were examining an elaborate flight simulator taken from the home of 53-year-old pilot Zaharie Ahmad Shah.

Police also are investigating engineers who may have had contact with the plane before it took off.

Mike Glynn, a committee member of the Australian and International Pilots Association, said a pilot rather than a hijacker is more likely to be able to switch off the communications equipment, adding that he thinks suicide was to blame in the EgyptAir and SilkAir crashes.

"The last thing that I, as a pilot, want is suspicion to fall on the crew, but it's happened twice before," Glynn said.

Still, there is no explanation why the pilot of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane would spirit the jet away to an unknown location and not crash it soon after taking off if he had wanted to commit suicide.

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### Overdrive

Slick handling, sharp design in Mazda3



The 2014 Mazda3 has been completely redesigned for this model year.

By BARRY SPYKER

The idea that bad things happen in threes is embedded in our cultural psyche. But hold on a minute.

Mazda3 Sedan:

■ Base price, excluding destination charge: \$16,945

■ Price as tested: **\$24,635** 

Consider that Mazda has unveiled its thirdgeneration of the Mazda3 for 2014. And that Mazda has sold more than 3 million Mazda3s worldwide. Oh, and the combined mileage figure this year? Yep, 33 mpg. That sounds like pretty good reasoning to say good things sometimes happen in 3s, too.

Now, never mind that the Page 1 designer at The Miami Herald just bought a 3, and that the photo editor just closed on a 3 hatch (and this guy shops as intensely as I do).

More important, it's about a fresh look,

more power with improved fuel efficiency. It's about crisp handling, a refined interior and this available hatchback version that adds function plus is great-looking, too. The new 3i has a

wheelbase that is 2.4 inches longer and 1.6 segment. Seating is decently bolstered for inches wider, and it's lower, too. It comes with the new and aggressive grille design found on other Mazdas. No more of that goofy grin.

The 3i models are powered by a 2.0-liter 4-cylinder engine that gets 155 horsepower and 150 pound-feet of torque, more than enough for a brisk ride—especially with a six-speed manual tranny. Zero to 60 takes around 8 seconds.

If you seek something quicker and even quieter, and can afford a \$3,000-plus increase, go for the 2.5-liter engine. You'll get an extra 29 horses, and there is only a slight difference in fuel economy.

Both engines employ Mazda's SkyActiv technology, which offers variable-valve timing and direct injection.

An optional six-speed automatic is a lesson in precision, with timely and smooth shifts.

On the road, the Mazda3 handles like, well, like a Mazda3. I mean, has anyone ever complained about a Mazda's handling? Steering is crisp, and the car is stable on curves and flat on the corners.

The bonus is that the 3 is also a nice cruiser on the highway. It's smooth and comfortable, and

wind and road noise are insignificant, so conversation and radio play comes easy.

Inside, the new 3 is classier and more refined this year, and especially nice for this mid-\$20,000

the dynamic drives, and the adjustable lumbar support reduces back complaints on longer drives.

Back seat passengers will be happier, too, with enough legroom and headroom even for 6-footers.

Space tightens up in the sedan's trunk, though, offering just 12.4 cubic feet of space. The hatch is more accommodating with 20 cubic feet of space behind the rear seats. Lower those rear seats and it more than doubles to 47 cubic feet, though vertical space is limited as with most hatchbacks.

The cabin even feels are more luxurious this year. The dash and interior panels have a rich feel. What appear to be carbon fiber accents on the Grand Touring trim are really fakes, but most will never know it.

Instruments and controls are easy to use and within easy reach. The infotainment knob between the front seats makes it a breeze to navigate, too. I'm bothered only by the location of the 7-inch touchscreen display on top of the dash. Makes it seem aftermarket.

Mazda3 comes with the usual suite of safety features—ABS, traction and stability control and front-side and side-curtain air bags—but also has a nice lineup of high-tech features often found in higher-priced vehicles. New this year in a technology package are lane-departure warning and blind-spot monitoring plus rear-view camera with rear cross-traffic alert.

There even is a low-speed collision-avoidance system that will automatically brake the car if the driver doesn't see the obstacle or vehicle in front.

The 3 comes in sedan or hatch and each is available in 3i or 3s trims. The base comes only as a sedan and has steel wheels, but does offer full power accessories and tilt-telescoping steer-

The 3i Touring gets 16-inch alloy wheels, rear spoiler, sport seats and leather-wrapped steering wheel. Options include sunroof, 7-inch touchscreen display and 9-speaker Bose sound. Move up to the 3i Grand Touring and get upgraded seats—not real leather, but an upgraded vinyl good enough to fool you.

The 3s group gets sportier with a more powerful engine, 18-inch alloy wheels, paddle shifters to take more control and a head-up display with the driving vitals.

One guy on a car forum said three words sum up his new 3: handsome, fun and tech. Hmmm ... perhaps good things do happen in threes.

### **UNDER THE HOOD**

### Mixing oils won't hurt some engines

By BRAD BERGHOLDT

QUESTION: Is using two types of oil in my engine harmful? I have a 2009 Subaru Forrester XT with 68,000 miles. It requires 5W-20 oil, and I change my own. I always buy the 5-quart containers and place my old oil back in them, and when I have a few I bring them to the local recycle center. Well, I thought I had a full container, but it was the old oil. I only had about 1.5 quarts of the 5W-2O oil and I had some 5W-3O oil, which I also use in my Ram 2500 truck. Is it harmful to my engine if I mixed them? Is this OK until my next oil change at 3,500 miles? —Gordon

**ANSWER:** Gordon, I'm a bit perplexed as to how you came to be using 5W-20 motor oil. According to the Subaru and On-Demand-5 maintenance information I consulted, it appears 5W-30 is the recommended viscosity for a wide range of climatic conditions.

In either case, mixing the two together in your Subaru engine shouldn't pose a problem for the remainder of this oil change cycle. Many current vehicles are fussy about using exactly the right viscosity, as their variable valve timing systems use the oil to precisely position valve control actuators. Subaru also is rather generous in allowing mixing of oil brands, as long as they meet the required American Petroleum Institute SM energy-conserving rating or International Lubricants Standardization and Approval Committee GF-4

Q: I have a 1998 3/4-ton Dodge pickup with a water leak on the driver's side only that leaks into the vehicle when it rains. I have talked to a mechanic, and he wasn't aware of any kind of a drain that could plug up. The water appears to run into the cab of the pickup on the driver's side and come down from under the dashboard by running down the part of the floorboard that curves upward. It collects on the padding under the floor mat. It does not show up on top of the floor mat. It also collects in the small channel that carries the wiring on the floor beside the driver's seat. I don't drive it a lot, so I can't tell if it happens when I am driving as opposed to being parked. —Harold Jennings

**A:** Great job explaining the details. It sounds like the truck cab may be leaking rainwater because of a faulty windshield or door seal, or because of faulty caulking at one of the cowl/cab sheet metal junctions. I'd start by taking a close look under the hood for a build-up of leaves or debris behind/below the hinge area. Look also for loose or peeled-away caulking on the visible cowl joints, and clean and repair as needed.

Your next step might be to grab a powerful flashlight and secure the assistance of a helper with a garden hose. While lying across the floor or seat, scan the area under the instrument panel as your helper very gently applies water to the door/fender intersection, starting low and gradually working upward. As your helper reaches the top of the fender, ask them to begin again under the hood, working slowly upward on the cowl, avoiding the base of the windshield. If the leak is not yet evident, then the windshield can be bathed. Locating the point of evidence on the inside will be helpful, but it can be difficult to determine the actual cause out front. Applying a spray-can underseal product to cowl seams may be fruitful, but issues with the windshield are best left to a glass professional.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@ earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

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### Life & Style

# 'Veronica Mars' shows new way movies get made

By RICH HELDENFELS

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

ou may have seen the many stories and commentaries about the new "Veronica Mars" movie. You may also be wondering why such a fuss is being made about a film based on a TV series than ran for three seasons on a boutique network, and ended almost seven years ago.

First of all, it was a very cool series, starring Kristen Bell as a tough-talking but often vulnerable young woman who balances her schooling with part-time work as a private eye. It had mystery, it had comedy, it had social commentary, and it ended with plenty of story yet to tell.

But the implications for entertainment in "Veronica Mars" are bigger than its screen history would suggest.

For starters, the movie showed it was possible to rally fans in order to get what might best be called a cult project

# Oprah Winfrey to sell Harpo Studios in Chicago

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Oprah Winfrey is selling Harpo Studios in Chicago to a developer, but the studio will remain on the property for another two years.

Winfrey filmed "The Oprah Winfrey Show" at the studio from 1990 to 2011, when she ended the talk show to start the Oprah Winfrey Network on cable.

"We have entered into a purchasing agreement with Sterling Bay for the four-building Harpo Studios campus in Chicago's West Loop," Harpo told Crain's Chicago Business (http://bit.ly/1iRqccg) in a statement. "We expect the transaction to be closed in 30 days. The property will be leased back to Harpo for two years and the studio will continue to produce programming for OWN."

About 200 people work at the 3.5-acre campus, which will sell for about \$32 million, Crain's reported Sunday. Harpo said it expects to close the transaction in 30 days.

Winfrey first came to Chicago in 1984 to WLS-TV's morning talk show, "A.M. Chicago." A month later, the show was No. 1 in the market and renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in 1985.

Winfrey moved to Harpo Studios in 1990 and is credited with transforming the once-gritty industrial area to a neighborhood filled with families and trendy restaurants.

In 2011, then-Chicago Mayor Richard Daley named the street outside Harpo Studios "Oprah Winfrey Way." made. Cast and crew went on the crowd-funding site Kickstarter to ask for \$2 million to finance a "Veronica Mars" movie. More than 90,000 fans pledged various amounts (I was one of them) and the movie ended up raising \$5.7 million that way.

Others have followed, thinking that if you kickstart it, bucks will come. But not all those other ideas have been enthusiastically greeted. "Veronica Mars"

was something like "Firefly," the Joss Whedon series which eventually came back as the big-screen "Serenity." Both shows have a specific, passionate fan base willing to go several extra miles to breathe new life into their beloved work. That emotion is rare for most TV series—although Hitfix's recent list of other shows deserving a movie revival had me wishing that "My So-Called Life"

and "American Gothic" could somehow show they have legions of crowd-funders waiting.

Sill, now that it has been made (and I can't wait to see it), "Veronica Mars" continues to demonstrate the new world order in how we watch entertainment. I and others have written about the way our idea of TV is changing—that it's not just broadcast, cable and satellite channels; it's Amazon and Netflix and Hulu.

The distribution of movies has also changed. "Veronica Mars" is going into some theaters, but audiences will more easily find it in Movies on Demand. And, as a premium, many of those who helped fund the movie will get a digital copy to download and watch.

Now, the fans getting that download are most likely excited enough about the film to want to see it on a movie screen in a theater full of other fans. But the download and the On Demand availability demonstrate that you don't have to drive to a theater to see the film—and, in these big-TV days, you can at least have a roomful of Veronica fans sit together and watch the film. Traditional distribution has not only been bypassed, it's unnecessary.

And, as I said, it should all be very cool.



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Kristen Bell in a scene from the film, "Veronica Mars."

### Rob Schneider returning to stand-up, sitcom TV

By DAVID J. CRIBLEZ

NEW YORK—From making copies on "Saturday Night Live" to prostitution in "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," comedian Rob Schneider has always thrown himself into every crazy situation possible

to make us laugh. Now the

Schneidmeister is focusing on

his stand-up career.

Calling from the Orlando set of his upcoming TV show, "Real Rob," Schneider shares with Newsday what drew him back to the stage.

#### Q. You returned to standup after a long break. What brought you back?

**A.** Doing stand-up again was a challenge that got me out of bed in the morning and sweating a little bit. Because 50 movies in, what challenges you anymore? Going onstage scared me, and, as an artist, you have to do what scares you

sometime

### Q. How did you get into the groove?

**A.** I realized that I had to hit the small clubs five nights a week and really earn it. As I dug deeper, I found myself getting into good areas with my material. There's a fine line as to what is interesting to me and what is interesting to the crowd. You always have to be there to entertain. If you are only entertaining yourself, then you are no longer an entertainer.

### Q. What is your material like now?

A. I'm doing some political material because we live in such interesting times, which is why I think stand-up is such a vital art form again. I don't think it was in the '90s, to be honest. With the financial decline in America and the disintegration of the middle class, people are looking for something. Great art always comes



Comedian Rob Schneider fires up the crowd before the start of a Major League Baseball game between the San Diego Padres and the San Francisco Giants at AT&T Park in San Francisco, California on Sunday, October 3, 2010.

from cultures in decline.

### Q. What is your new TV show, "Real Rob," about?

**A.** It's a single-camera, close-to-the-bone version of my life. I think I'm the first actor to pay

for his own sitcom, but I'm going to find a way to get it out there. We'll bring it to cable or Netflix

Q. You made the jump on "SNL" from writer to per-

### former. How did you pull that off?

**A.** They told me if I wrote something that I could perform better than anybody else, they'd let me do it. That was their mistake, because I found something very quickly—the copy machine guy. That made me famous overnight. Sometimes you never know what's going to click and that hit hard. It was the beginning of everything.

### Q. Will you do more films with Adam Sandler?

**A.** I think we got one more in us if we can pull it off. We've been talking about doing a Western.

## Q. You've always gone for the laugh full-bore. Is it something you pride yourself on?

A. Sure. The greatest compliment I've ever gotten was from "SNL" writer Jim Downey, who said, "Rob Schneider never wasted time trying to look cool." That's something I'll take with me to my grave.

### Jimmy Fallon takes 'Tonight Show' into terrific new territory

LOS ANGELES—Turns out you can teach an old time slot new tricks.

The recent passing of "The Tonight Show" torch from Jay Leno to Jimmy Fallon sparked the inevitable state-of-the-genre conversation. In a world ruled by tweets and memes, Netflix and YouTube, is there even a place for late-night talk shows anymore?

Don't know about talk shows plural, but there's certainly a place for "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," if only because Fallon's been rigorously carving it out from the calcified post-nightly news landscape himself.

Whether he's playing Flip Cup with Annette Bening, photo-bombing tourists with Jon Hamm, taking a Polar Plunge dare from Rahm Emanuel or just chatting it up with the endless array of his "very favorite" people, Fallon has, in less than two months, re-framed the franchise and sparked the kind of audience excitement "The Tonight Show" hasn't seen in years.

The ratings have soared, and why not? Where else are you going to see Michelle Obama hamming it up with Will Ferrell, Emma Thompson playing Pictionary with Bradley Cooper or Idina Menzel killing the freshly Oscaranointed "Let It Go" with only toy instruments as accompaniment?

Fallon's midcareer energy infuses his "Tonight Show" with the kind of good-natured, slightly silly "welcome to the party" feel that Ellen DeGeneres brought so successfully to daytime (and more divisively to this year's Oscars). Night after night there is music and games, pranks and funny anecdotes, all involving A-list stars with whom Fallon interacts as admiring peer rather than benevolent dictator.

It may still be difficult to imagine Fallon hour in a way that pays homage to

interviewing the president (although if Zach Galifianakis can do it ...) or taking on a celebrity with real issues (a la the famous Leno / Hugh Grant interview). But he happily brought Randy Newman on in early weeks to criticize "The Tonight Show's" move from Los Angeles to New York, which Newman then punctuated by playing "I Love L.A."

Admittedly, Fallon gave us quite a scare in the beginning. His Feb. 17 debut was nothing if not underwhelming. Uncharacteristically subdued and pale, Fallon spent much of the hour downplaying his worthiness to accept the mantle.

If it hadn't been for U2 (who played on the roof of Rockefeller Center) and Stephen Colbert (who showered Fallon with pennies), the first show would have been a total dud.

Whether it was a clever exercise in expectation management or just a bad case of opening-night jitters, that initial clammy uncertainty is now just a distant memory. Fallon has swiftly claimed ownership of the iconic

there will still be an opening monologue but, mercifully, does not bow to it.

Under Johnny, and Show" became very pleased with itself. For up-and-coming comedians, snagging a "spot on Carson" could make or break a career, and eventually that feeling extended itself across the entertainment industry. For moviemakers, musicians, writers and eventually politicians, an appearance on "The Tonight Show" became such a marketing necessity it was treated as an honor.

While this cemented the show as a ratings leader, it also made the guy behind the desk seem more monarch as host; even the ever-amiable Leno granted an audience more than sat down for a chat.

Fallon may have the desk, but it seems more like a place for him to park his Chinese food or write his Thank You notes than a symbol of authority. Sweetly enthusiastic enough to overcome even an annoying reliance on firstperson plural—every guest is "our favorite" whom "we just love"—Fallon is #greatidea.

tradition—relax everyone, much closer to his pre-hosting days than Leno or Letterman.

Indeed, many of his early guests, including Tina Fey, Cameron Diaz, Adam Sandler and Demi Lovato, are actual friends and former colleagues. Lovato gave him a homemade BFF sweatshirt; then Jay, "The Tonight Diaz "pranked" Fallon's infant daughter Winnie and brought a photo. It's hard to imagine David Letterman even having a BFF or Leno being privately pranked by anyone.

And it isn't just age. Unlike, say, Conan O'Brien or even Jimmy Kimmel, Fallon's shtick is his everyman quality. He is the Tom Hanks of hosting, able to project endearing uncertainty even as he clearly runs the show.

As both a recently married guy and a new father, Fallon straddles the thirty / fortysomething demo. His famous boyishness, musical inclinations and facility with social media resonate with a younger generation. All of which he knows and plays up to his advantage. Who doesn't like a good photo-bombing set?

His "Tonight Show," like his "Late Night," is also much more of an ensemble gig than his predecessors. After his opener, Fallon engages in a comedic conversation with his announcer Steve Higgins that's often longer (and funnier) than the

As with "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon," his studio band, the Roots, has its own set of sketches (including the hilariously dramatic readings of "The Bachelor") and even the audience is encouraged to participate through various hashtags—#howIgotdumped—which Fallon often then reads on the show.

Concerned over declining viewership and an aging demographic, NBC clearly hoped that Fallon would make "The Tonight Show" a habit among a new generation. Instead he's just gone and made "The Tonight Show" fun.

### Fetching 'Peabody & Sherman' tops box office original, which

By JESSICA HERNDON

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Street racers couldn't catch a timetraveling dog and his son at the multiplex this weekend.

Though Disney's "Need for Speed" was expected to take the No. 1 position at the box office, DreamWorks' "Mr. Peabody & Sherman" took the lead, with the action film in third place.

The animated movie, about the adventures of a genius dog and the human son he adopted, earned \$21.2 million, according to studio estimates released Sunday. Debuting last weekend at No. 2, the 3-D kiddie-jaunt features voices from "Modern Family" stars Ty Burrell and Ariel Winter.

"Our midweek numbers were very strong, indicating good and positive word of mouth,' said Chris Aronson, president of domestic distribution at Twentieth Century Fox. "If anything, this is exceeding (expectations). It's a combination of likable characters and it's a nostalgia play for those who are familiar with the show."

Mr. Peabody and Sherman first appeared in the 1950s and early 1960s on "Peabody's Improbable History," a segment within the animated television series "Rocky and His Friends" and later "The Bullwinkle Show."

"The family marketplace is giving every other genre a run



This image released by DreamWorks Animation shows Sherman, voiced by Max Charles, left, and Mr. Peabody, voiced by Ty Burell, in a scene from the animated film, "Mr Peabody & Sherman."

- 1. "Mr. Peabody & Sherman," \$21.2 million (\$15.3 million international).
- 2. "300: Rise of an Empire," \$19.1 million (\$41.3 million international). 3. "Need for Speed," \$17.8 million (\$45.6 million international).
- 4. "Non-Stop," \$10.6 million (\$12.5 million international).
- 5. "The Single Moms Club," \$8.3 million.
- 6. "The Lego Movie," \$7.7 million (\$4.7 million international). 7. "Son of God," \$5.4 million.
- 8. "The Grand Budapest Hotel," \$3.6 million (\$6.7 million international).
- 9. "Frozen," \$2.1 million (\$10.4 million international). 10. "Veronica Mars," \$2 million.

for its money," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "But the St. Patrick's Day effect could be at play here, where families had to exercise their options at the theater rather than the pub. That may have paid off for 'Mr. Peabody."

Meanwhile, analysts predicted that "Need for Speed," based on the popular EA Entertainment video game and starring "Breaking Bad" alum Aaron Paul, would come in at No. 1 this weekend. But with \$17.8 million, it arrived at No. 3 in the U.S. But the movie raced to the top of the international box office, bringing in \$45.6 million.

Warner Bros.' warrior drama "300: Rise of an Empire," the 3-D sequel to 2007's "300," dropped to second place, with \$19.1 million, after debuting at No. 1 last weekend. Though its opening haul of \$45.1 million pales in comparison to the

debuted with \$70.9 million, "Rise of an Empire" earned more than \$78 million since its debut.

Tyler Perry's "The Single Moms Club,' starring Nia Long and Amy Smart, opened with \$8.3 million at No. 5.

Playing only 66 theaters, Wes An-

derson's "Grand Budapest Hotel" landed at No. 8 with \$3.6 million. When it opened last weekend, the stylish comedy showed on just four screens in New York and Los Angeles. Still, it impressed with \$200,000.

Rounding out the top 10 is the Kristen Bell-starring cult-TVshow-turned-feature "Veronica Mars." Its \$2 million debut was impressive considering the film's funding came from a crowdsourcing campaign, the first highprofile project to do so.

Also opening this weekend was Jason Bateman's directorial debut "Bad Words." Showing in only New York and Los Angeles, the comedy earned \$120,000, one of the biggest per theater averages of the weekend, with \$20,000 per movie house.

### **Chris Brown returns to** court after rehab dismissal

Brown is facing a court hearing over his dismissal from rehab and whether he should be given additional penalties, which could include more time behind bars.

The Grammy-winning R&B singer spent the weekend in a Los Angeles jail after a judge ordered him to be arrested for violating the rules and regulations of his treat-

ment. Court records did not elaborate on the reason for Brown's dismissal from the facility that was treating him for anger management, substance abuse and issues related to bipolar disorder.

Brown, 24, had

main in treatment since November, one month after he was arrested in Washington, D.C., after a man accused him of punching him in a confrontation outside a hotel. That case is pending, and Superior Court Judge James R. Brandlin has not yet scheduled a probation violation hearing to address whether he would penalize the singer for the arrest.

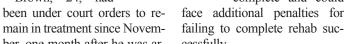
His attorney, Mark Geragos, did not return an email message seeking comment on the singer's arrest. Prosecutors have not said what action they plan to take at Monday's hearing.

The judge revoked Brown's probation in December, but refused a prosecutor's request in

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris February to send the singer to jail because of the Washington misdemeanor assault case. The judge has said Brown appeared to be making good progress in rehab and a probation officer gave him a favorable report at his last court hearing on Feb. 28.

The singer's arrest last week represents another stumble in his efforts to put his 2009 attack

> then-girlfriend Rihanna behind him. Brown's probation had been scheduled to conclude in August, but that is now unlikely because he still has 750 hours of community labor to complete and could



Brown pleaded guilty to felony assault for attacking Rihanna, leaving her bruised and bloody just hours before the 2009 Grammy Awards. Both singers skipped the ceremony, with Brown turning himself in to police. He returned to the awards show years later, winning a Grammy for Best R&B album in 2011 for his release "F.A.M.E."

At his sentencing in August 2009, Brown was warned that he could face prison if he violated the terms of his probation, but any penalties he faces will be decided by the judge.



Brown

### St. Pat's festivities kick off amid tensions in US

**NEW YORK** (AP)—St. Patrick's Day festivities were in full swing Sunday with the usual merriment of bagpipes and beer, but political tensions lingered in the northeastern U.S., where city leaders will be conspicuously absent from parades over gay rights issues.

New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio will become the first mayor in decades to sit out the traditional march Monday because parade organizers refuse to let participants carry progay signs. Boston Mayor Martin Walsh wasn't marching in his city's parade Sunday, either, after talks broke down that would have allowed a gay group to march.

Still, thousands of green-clad spectators came out for the parade in Boston to watch bagpipers, and organizers of a float intended to promote diversity threw Mardi Gras-type beads at onlookers. A similar scene played out in downtown Philadelphia.

In Georgia, the dome of Savannah's City Hall will be lit green, and several thousand people braved temperatures in the teens on Sunday to march with pipe and drum bands in Detroit and Bay City, Mich.

In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day provides the launch of the country's annual push for tourism, a big part of the rural economy.

"To Irish people by birth or descent, wherever they may be in the world, and to those who simply consider themselves to be friends of Ireland, I wish each and every one of you a happy, peaceful and authentically Irish St. Patrick's Day," Irish President Michael D. Higgins, the ceremonial head of state and guest of honor at Mon-



Marin Marx, of Paris, dances in the street during the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in the South Boston neighborhood of Boston, Sunday, March 16, 2014.

day's parade in Dublin, said in a statement.

Ireland's head of government, Enda Kenny, became the first Irish prime minister to attend Boston's annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast Sunday.

But Kenny has resisted pressure, in both Ireland and America, to support the gay rights lobby's demand to have equal rights to parade on St. Patrick's Day and he planned to march Monday in New York.

"The St. Patrick's Day parade (in New York) is a parade about our Irishness and not about sexuality, and I would be happy to participate in it," he said in Dublin before leaving for a six-day trip to the U.S.

happy, peaceful and authentically Irish St. Patrick's Day," Irish President Michael D. Higgins, the ceremonial head of state and guest of honor at Mon-

Some LGBT groups were to protest the parade along Manhattan's Fifth Avenue on Monday. Others had planned to dump Guinness beer from the shelves of the Stonewall Inn, the birthplace of the gay rights movement, in protest of the brewer's plan to sponsor the parade, but that demonstration was canceled late Sunday after Guinness said in a statement that it had dropped its

Other beer companies joined the boycotts earlier, with Sam Adams withdrawing its sponsorship of Boston's parade and Heineken following suit in New York.

New York's parade, a tradition that predates the city itself, draws more than 1 million spectators and about 200,000 participants every March 17. It has long been a mandatory stop on the city's political trail, and

will include marching bands, traditional Irish dancers and thousands of uniformed city workers.

Several global landmarks will be bathed in green as part of a push by Ireland's tourism agency, among them Sleeping Beauty's Castle at Disneyland Paris in France, as well as the French capital's Moulin Rouge nightclub. (Better make that the Moulin Vert.)

Other locations transforming at night under green floodlights are the Petrin Lookout Tower in Prague; Rhine Falls near Zurich; the Taj Mahal in India; the London Eye Ferris wheel; Niagara Falls; the Las Vegas welcome sign; New York City's Empire State Building; the Leaning Tower of Pisa; Sydney Opera House in Australia; and both the Giza pyramids and the Sphinx in Egypt.

### 'Star Trek' actor Chris Pine pleads guilty to DUI



Hollywood actor Chris Pine, left, is surrounded by people outside a courthouse in Ashburton, New Zealand, Monday, March 17, 2014.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Hollywood actor Chris Pine, known for playing Captain Kirk in the "Star Trek" movies, pleaded guilty Monday in a New Zealand court to a charge of drunken driving.

The 33-year-old American was fined \$93 New Zealand dollars (\$79) and had his New Zealand driver's license suspended for six months during a hearing at the Ashburton District Court.

Police pulled over Pine early on March 1 after he'd attended a party to mark the end

of filming on the movie "Z for Zachariah," which is due for release next year. Fairfax Media reported that Pine told police he'd consumed four vodka drinks.

Police told the court that a blood test found Pine's blood-alcohol level was 0.11 percent, which is over New Zealand's legal limit of 0.08 percent.

Pine stood silently during the hearing, allowing his lawyer, Marilyn Gilchrist to enter the plea.

According to Fairfax, Gilchrist told the

judge that Pine acknowledged he'd made the wrong decision to drive that night. Gilchrist said her client had suffered emotionally and professionally and that the negative publicity had put his acting contracts in jeopardy.

The judge said she accepted Pine was "entirely remorseful," Fairfax reported.

Pine appeared relaxed as he left the courtroom, stopping to sign a couple of autographs for fans who had gathered outside before being driven away.

Much of the filming of "Z for Zachariah" took place on the South Island's picturesque Banks Peninsula.

Before being pulled over by police, Pine had been at the Blue Pub in Methven with his Icelandic girlfriend, Iris Bjork Johannesdottir.

"The pub was closed to the public later in the evening and approximately 80 actors and crew attended the party, which finished at 3 a.m. on March 1," the bar said in a statement. "This was a well-controlled party, the cast and crew were friendly and it was a great night, not a wild party."

The statement said that "Chris Pine did not appear to staff to be intoxicated to a level where intervention might have been warranted."

In addition to playing Capt. James T. Kirk, Pine also played Jack Ryan in the movie "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit."

# Pregnant sister facing jail arouses reader response

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** Your answer to "Heartbroken in Alabama" (Jan. 2) did not go deep enough. The pregnant sister, "Nicole," who is facing prison time, needs to contact the Department of Children's Services in her county/state as soon as possible. They will oversee the placement of her child if said child is born in jail or prison.



DearAbby

A child born in custody becomes

a ward of the state, and if arrangements can be made prior to birth for a foster family, it could benefit the child and "Heartbroken." OBSTETRICAL RN IN MICHIGAN

DEAR RN: Thank you for writing. Readers' views were emotionally charged about this subject, as you will see:

**DEAR ABBY:** "Heartbroken" is upset because her parents want to raise her sister's child while her sister serves a prison sentence. It should be the sister's decision who will raise the child, no one else's.

It sounds like the parents intend to maintain the family ties and make sure the child knows his/her birth mother, regardless of the circumstances. This is especially important, since the birth father is married and probably unavailable. It's unlikely the birth mother would be released from prison ready and able, emotionally and financially, to care for her child. But if the parents have custody, a relationship can still be formed and the child won't be cast to the wind.

If I were the birth mother, I wouldn't want my child raised by a sister who has no compassion or empathy for me. "Heartbroken" is behaving like the child is a commodity with no rights or needs of his/her own. That child needs to view the birth mother as someone of value (as everyone is) in order to develop a healthy sense of self. I urge "Heartbroken" and her husband to educate themselves about the emotional needs of adopted children before they take ANY child into their home.

ADOPTIVE MOTHER IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR ABBY:** "Heartbroken" may desperately want to be a mother and her mother may want to raise her grandchild, but has either of them given consideration to the special needs that Nicole's child will likely be born with?

We have two adopted children whose birth mothers had varying degrees of alcohol and drug dependency. Our boys have learning disabilities, seizures, ADHD and more. They require numerous kinds of therapy and more doctors' appointments than we had with our six biological children combined.

Adoption is a wonderful process and the joys of raising a child with special needs are numerous. However, "Heartbroken" and her mother both need to be aware that adopting a bundle of joy whose mother was drugged and/or drank during pregnancy means they will be raising a child who has some level of disability.

"Heartbroken," DO YOUR RESEARCH. I'd hate to see your heart broken again.

MOM WHO KNOWS IN IDAHO

**DEAR ABBY:** Having an addiction does not absolve Nicole from facing the music for her past actions—she may indeed serve time. But respect and empathy are more appropriate reactions to her situation than judgment and criticism. It's likely Nicole is already providing herSELF with plenty of those.

"Heartbroken" should consider talking with her sister to validate how hard it must be for Nicole, who "always wanted to be a mom," to finally be pregnant but facing jail time instead of nursery time. I know several women in the same situation, who acted on what they perceived to be in the best interest of their child. They facilitated the adoption of the child, most often sending the child to a loving and trusted relative, especially a sibling.

ADDICTION MEDICINE DOC IN NEW ENGLAND

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE **22** TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014

### **Pastimes**

### Calvin and Hobbes

### DEDNUOMNA TRUC PAHT LAH AH THE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED: NOW YOU CAN DO YOUR HOMEWORK AND WHEEEEEE! YOU WON'T GET I'M TROUBLE

RIGHT, BUT THERE'S OVER TWO FEET OF SNOW THAT REQUIRES OUR IMMEDIATE



### **Bv Bill Waterson**



By Bryan Basset

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Adam Levine, 35; Dane Cook, 42; Queen Lati-

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your

plans a secret until you are ready to pre-

sent and promote. A partnership will hit

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be pre-

pared and willing to lend a helping hand.

Your gesture will not go unnoticed and re-

an emotional wall that will require patience. A

presumptuous notion will not bode well at home

or when dealing with a sensitive situation.

fah, 44; Vanessa Williams, 51.

### **Garfield**®







By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis

### Adam@home

Lake

15 Museum

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17 Dudley

Do-

employ-

Right's

damsel

18 Cartoon-

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33 Antsy

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21 Task

25 Golf

**30** As

51 Vortex

53 Dirt

**DOWN** 

1 Yon

period

maiden

2 Bullring

bravo

Solution time: 21 mins.



### The Duplex



#### **CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 23 Bygone 36 Base-3 Foolish 1 Frost runner's one car

Happy Birthday: Revise the way you handle relationships. Size up what's important and take ac-5 Homer's 4 Go to maker goal tion. It's up to you to make your life happy and to inter-37 Fortune bed 24 Intrinsijection teller's 5 Actor cally feel content. Forming relationships with people Bogarde 26 Show up 8 Melody who have something to offer in return will give cards 12 Other-6 Praise in 38 III will again you greater freedom to reach your goals. Clear 27 Open a 41 Help verse your head by getting rid of the clutter in your life. wise 7 Reaps 13 Greek **42** The bit Your numbers are 7, 10, 21, 25, 28, 33, 47. mountain Tent-8 Elder 28 Shake-14 Great maker speare

9 Hurler 43 Limit Hershiser villain 48 Dryer 10 Cleo-29 Russian patra's refusal fuzz 31 United 49 "Roscoe" river **50** Rim

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Yesterday's answer 3-18

19 20

11 Neuter a nations **34** XXX horse 52 Historic 16 Individ-**35** San ual Diego wards can be expected. Look for unusual solutions 20 Book team and you will be considered for upcoming projects 37 — for after that can turn out to be quite prosperous. Neh. tat

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Let things 38 Double fall into place naturally. The less you agent use and the more direct you are, the bet-39 In the ter the results. A trendy, upbeat approach to the 22 Sharpen thick of way you do things will gain interest and mo-40 Come to earth mentum. Advance using diplomacy and innova-41 "The Thin

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tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King

tion. OOOOO CANCER (June 21-July 22): Taking on too much will lead to shortcomings. Gauge your time wisely and set your priorities carefully. Competition is fine, but only if the job you do is top-rate. Whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability. 😂

personal partnerships will lead to good as agreeable as possible. It's the ability to work alongside someone that will bring you the highest response and remuneration. Love is in the stars. OOOO

difficult to choose which route to take, but if you stick to tried-and-true methods, you will not lose time or be disappointed. Don't feel the need to make a hasty decision regarding an investment.

best way to promote what you have to offer. Apply what you know to everyday dealings and you will get ahead. Expect someone to be jealous of you. 🛇 🛇 🔾

ments more solid and secure. Don't neglect your health when you should be going out of your way to be fit. A business trip will pay off. •••

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your ability to jump from one thing to another will be attractive to some but unnerving to others. Try not to confuse someone who can influ-

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Business and

fortune. Contribute what you can and be

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It may be

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can charm your way into any conversation. Your versatility and knowledge is the

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on ways to make your surroundings more comfortable and your personal invest-

ence the outcome of a situation that can determine how successful you will become. ����

**EUGENIA** THE LAST WORD

IN ASTROLOGY





CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Slow down and observe. Stay as objective as possible and reassess your options. Back away from unpredictable individuals trying to include you in something that appears to be risky or not in your best interest. Avoid excess and arguments. 🛇

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look ) for a good deal or take care of settlements that have been lingering for too long. Enforce your position and make the necessary changes to ensure that you are safe and secure, physically, emotionally and financially. Romance is highlighted. �����

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A past partnership will impact the way an investment or money situation pans out. Honesty will be vital if you wish to maintain integrity and continue to move forward without interference. Be upfront and make a fair offer. •••

Birthday Baby: You are charming, smart and insightful. You are persistent and fortunate.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

**Conceptis Sudoku** 

By Dave Green

3/18

			1	5 6	9			
		1		6		9		
	9						1	
6			4		2			1
1	4						3	2
2			6		7			5
	8						4	
		6		2 9		7		
			8	9	1			Ì

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer										
1	8	7	2	9	3	4	5	6		
4	5	2	6	7	8	3	1	9		
6	9	3	1	4	5	2	7	8		
7	2	4	9	8	1	6	3	5		
8	3	9	5	6	4	1	2	7		
5	1	6	3	2	7	9	8	4		
9	7	1	4	5	2	8	6	3		
2	6	5	8	3	9	7	4	1		
3	4	8	7	1	6	5	9	2		

1	8	7	2	9	3	4	5	6
4	5	2	6	7	8	3	1	9
6	9	3	1	4	5	2	7	8
7	2	4	9	8	1	6	3	5
8	3	9	5	6	4	1	2	7
5	1	6	3	2	7	9	8	4
9	7	1	4	5	2	8	6	3
2	6	5	8	3	9	7	4	1
3	4	8	7	1	6	5	9	2
Dillou 's Level ★								

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#### By DAVID WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftower letters shall be a New departed.

RESTORING OLD PHOTOS NGYENACSTNIRPCF EOTBLBSROLOCROP HLISBELAFILTERS TSOC O G ENNAAEHTNRPRNEA RAEITMDTRDAEICR FRDNUTRISOIPYTP CEESRHSOLINAPPE OTHSAEFA®STIOUN MOSTTLNARSNRCHE PUIOIP(D) HCTNMACG U C R P O E U U A L N A A U L THESNTSCLNEOROE EWHITETOOLCACTC RKCALBDAMAGENOT

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48 49 For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED?

# LASSIFIED A

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(5)Carpenters - \$5.55 p/h Call 322-5881/898-4638 UNIVERSAL DEVELOPERS, INC. P.O. BOX 502136. SAIPAN. MP 96950.

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1-H.E. Mechanic \$ 5.55 - \$ 5.75/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. exp. bldg. electrician. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

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### Accountant/Business Manager (1)

- Minimum 5 years experience in
- Seventh-day Adventist School; ■ Minimum 5 years experience in managerial capacity;
- Bachelor's degree in accounting;
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Knowledge in Quickbook's accounting software preferred;
- Minimum 2 years work experience in a Christian school

#### Elementary Teacher (1)

- Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education required:
- NAD denominational degree preferred: Must be qualified to teach elementary
- English: Must be willing to adhere to all school
- policies and procedures:
- Minimum 2 years teaching experience in a Christian school

### Pre-School Teachers (2)

- Bachelor's degree required
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- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Must be willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures
- Minimum 2 years teaching experience in a Christian school

Send resumes to: Saipan SDA School Principal P.O. Box 501063 Saipan MP 96950

#### EMPLOYMENT

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1-Plumber \$ 5.55 - \$ 5.75/hr. Min. of 5 vrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

3-Carpenters \$ 5.55 - \$ 5.75/hr. Min. of 5 yrs, experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

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### APARTMENTS FOR RENT



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**LNH Apartments** (Lower Navy Hill) Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sg.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater

1 Unit left!

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### Allen gets hot late, Heat top Rockets, 113-104



MIAMI (AP)—Ray Allen was somewhat surprised to see how open he was. So was Dwyane Wade, who even took an extra dribble before believing his eyes and sending a 50-foot pass to the best 3-point shooter in NBA

Moments later, the Miami Heat were back on track.

Allen scored 14 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter on a milestone day for the veteran, Wade and LeBron James each added 24 points and the Heat closed with a flourish to beat the Houston Rockets 113-104 on Sunday and snap their worst stretch of results since 2011.

"When Ray gets into a rhythm, he's the best 3-point shooter of all-time," said Heat forward Chris Bosh, who scored 18 points to help Miami win for just the second time in its last seven games.

Miami trailed 97-92 following a 3-pointer by James Harden midway through the fourth, then finished the game on a 21-7 run.

Allen had 11 points during that late stretch, including a 3-pointer that allowed him to pass Allen Iverson for 21st on the NBA's scoring list. It was also the 750th regular-season win that Allen was a part of in his career.

"I don't know how I get open," said Allen, who took about 1,000 shots on a practice day Saturday by Heat coach Erik Spoelstra's estimate. "When I am, I have to be ready to shoot it."

Harden finished with 30 points for Houston, which got 21 points and 14 rebounds from Dwight Howard. Patrick Beverley added 15 points and Terrence Jones scored 12 for the Rockets, who've dropped three straight.

"We just didn't play well down the stretch," Rockets coach Kevin McHale said.

And that all started when no one seemed to want to guard Allen. Houston led by five when Wade sparked the late run with a 50-foot assist after a timeout that set up a 3-pointer from the left corner by Allen.

"A critical possession," Wade said. Allen also made three technical-foul free throws to help his late rhythm. One came after a defensive three-second violation, another following Houston's second delay-of-game whistle on the afternoon, and the third when Beverley was hit with a technical in the final minute.

James hit a pair of free throws with 46 seconds left for his first points of the final quarter, and that sealed it for Miami, which moved back within three games of Indiana for the No. 1 spot in the Eastern Conference.

Allen now has 24,370 points, two more than Iverson. Afterward, he was all about the win.

"Tonight we came out and finished the game," Allen said, "as opposed to letting it slip away from us."

The first surprise of the day came about 20 minutes before tip-off, when the Heat announced Greg Oden-who appeared in his 100th career game, nearly seven years after being the No. 1 overall pick in the 2007 draft—would be starting at center. It was the second start of the season for Oden, who also opened a game against Chicago last month in part because James was unavailable while dealing with a broken nose.

Oden had three rebounds in the



Houston Rockets' Jeremy Lin (7) is unable to block Mlami Heat's Dwywane Wade (3) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Sunday, March 16, 2014.

game's first three minutes, and the Heat never trailed in the first half, going into the break with a 57-54 lead. Harden and Howard combined for 15 in the third, and Houston led 81-79 entering the final 12 minutes.

"It was a couple of mental mistakes for us down the stretch and they had a couple of calls go their way," Harden said. "It's tough.

Clearly, it was a win Miami needed. Wade's fiancee, Gabrielle Union, was on her feet to yell and cheer midway through the fourth, and James' wife, Savannah, was nearby doing the same thing, almost as if it was a playoff

Like all other Heat fans, they finally left a game happy.

"They see the way we've been acting at home in between games," James said of his wife and Wade's fiancee. "We came in with a mindset that we wanted to get this win. It was good to see us have to gut one out."

### Clippers 102, Cavaliers 80

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 21 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists on his 25th birthday as the Los Angeles Clippers held off the Cleveland Cavaliers for their 11th consecutive victory.

Chris Paul had 15 assists and scored 11 of his 16 points in the final 6:04 for the Clippers, who haven't lost since Feb. 21.

Los Angeles matched the longest winning streak in the NBA this season, equaling 11-game runs in November by Portland and San Antonio.

Luol Deng scored 23 points and Dion Waiters had 15 for the Cavaliers, who lost star point guard Kyrie Irving in the first quarter to a left biceps injury. Cleveland had won on its first two stops of a three-game West Coast road trip, but never led against the Clippers.

Reggie Bullock scored a career-high 14 points as Los Angeles matched the 1974-75 Buffalo Braves for the second-longest winning streak in franchise history.

### **Spurs 122, Jazz 104**

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 21 points and San Antonio earned its 10th consecutive victory to become the first NBA team to 50 wins this season.

The Spurs (50-16) shot a seasonhigh 62.8 percent from the field in their fourth victory in four games this season against Utah. Tony Parker had 18 points and Tim Duncan scored 16.

It's the second double-digit winning streak of the Spurs, who won 11 in a row in November.

Derrick Favors had a season-high 28 points for Utah, which has lost four straight.

#### Mavericks 109, **Thunder 86**

In Oklahoma City, Shawn Marion scored 19 points and Vince Carter added 18 as the Mavericks stopped a seven-game, regular-season losing streak to the Thunder.

Kevin Durant scored 30 points for Oklahoma City. It was his 26th straight game of 25 points or more, the longest such streak since Michael Jordan did so in 40 straight games during the 1986-87 season.

Dirk Nowitzki added 17 points for the Mavericks, who became only the third Western Conference team to win this season in Oklahoma City, joining the Trail Blazers and Clippers.

Dallas' win over the Thunder was its first since Jan. 2, 2012.

### Warriors 113, **Trail Blazers 112**

In Portland, Oregon, Stephen Curry scored 28 of his 37 points in the second half and Klay Thompson made the goahead 3-pointer with 11.1 seconds remaining to lead Golden State to the win.

Thompson finished with 27 points and David Lee added 16 for the Warriors, who rallied from an 18-point deficit in the third quarter.

Golden State ended a two-game skid and pulled within 11/2 games of the Blazers for the Western Conference's No. 5 playoff spot.

Damian Lillard scored 26 points and Nicholas Batum had 23 points and 14 rebounds as the Blazers, playing without injured All-Star forward LaMarcus Aldridge, lost for the fifth time in six games.

### Pelicans 121, Celtics 120, OT

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis set career highs with 40 points and 21 rebounds for New Orleans, and Eric Gordon made two crucial free throws in overtime.

Tyreke Evans added 26 points and Gordon had 19 for the Pelicans, who had lost two consecutive games.

Gordon's foul shots with 9.4 seconds remaining gave the Pelicans a 121-117 lead.

Davis became the first player in team history to have at least 40 points and 20 rebounds in the same game.

Jeff Green scored 39 points for Boston, which lost its fourth straight game.

#### **Timberwolves 104, Kings 102**

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 26 points, 10 rebounds and five assists to lead Minnesota to the win.

Love was 3 for 6 from 3-point range, including one with 1:07 to play to give Minnesota a 97-95 lead.

Kevin Martin added 31 points for Minnesota, and Senegalese rookie Gorgui Dieng had his first career double-double with season highs in points (12) and rebounds (11). He also had five blocks.

Derrick Williams scored 26 points and 11 rebounds for Sacramento, which has officially been eliminated from postseason contention.

### **Suns 121, Raptors 113**

In Toronto, Markieff Morris had 16 points and 14 rebounds and Gerald Green scored 13 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter as Phoenix beat Toronto.

Goran Dragic scored 19 points, Eric Bledsoe had 14 and P.J. Tucker 11 for the Suns, who had lost three of four before winning 87-80 at Boston on Friday.

Phoenix's reserves outscored Toron-

### Dwyane Wade on pace to lead all guards in shooting

By TIM REYNOLDS

Miami's Dwyane Wade is on the cusp of doing something he's never

In a year that started with questions about whether his skills and health were in serious decline, and during a season in which he's sat out 16 games largely because of a need to rest his knees, Wade is now shooting 55 percent this season.

Not only is that a career-best, but no guard in the NBA is shooting any better. Among players with enough games to qualify for the statistical ranking, no one else is currently within 4 percent of Wade's shooting pace this season.

Wade has never finished a season as the league's top-shooting guard - he finished last season, one-tenth of one percent behind San Antonio's Tony Parker, though as a small consolation Wade was on the team that beat Parker's in the NBA Finals. This season, Wade is well on his way to finishing in that top spot, helped Sunday by a 10-for-15 effort in Miami's win over Houston.

The Heat have been putting the ball in Wade's hands more during fourth quarters lately. While it's probably helping him gear up for the playoffs, it seems to be keeping LeBron James from finding his best late-game rhythm. James had five fourth-quarter baskets two weeks ago to cap his 61-point effort against Charlotte.

James has had five fourthquarter field goals since. Total. In seven games.

But James insists that he'll find his stride again soon enough, and figures it's a good thing for his Heat teammates to get going. And if Wade, who shot 46 percent during the 2013 postseason while dealing with major knee issues, can come close to matching his regular-season percentage in the second season, that means Miami will be an even tougher out in a best-of-seven situation.

to's 59-11.

Kyle Lowry had 28 points and 13 assists, and Terrence Ross scored 22 points as Toronto lost at home for the first time since a triple-overtime defeat to Washington on Feb. 27.

### **Bobcats 101, Bucks 92**

In Milwaukee, Kemba Walker scored 21 points and Al Jefferson added 16 of his 20 in the second half to help Charlotte beat Milwaukee for its fourth straight victory.

Gary Neal added 18 in his return to Milwaukee after the Bucks traded him to Charlotte last month.

Gerald Henderson scored 14 as the Bobcats matched their longest winning streak of the season, set Feb. 18-22.

Brandon Knight scored 21 points and Ramon Sessions added 18 for the Bucks.

# Games are all equal; seedings are not

By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER



In the eyes of today's NCAA selection committee, a game is a game, no

matter whether it's played in November, January or March.

That's why some of the teams playing best heading into the NCAA tournament have crooked numbers by their names instead of 1s and 2s.

Louisville, Michigan State and UCLA, winners of the American Athletic, Big Ten and Pac-12 Conference tournaments, all received 4 seeds in what turned out to be the biggest—but not the only—head scratchers from Selection Sunday.

New Mexico was a 7 after winning the Mountain West.

Kentucky was an 8 after coming one point short of the overall top seed, Florida, in the SEC title game.

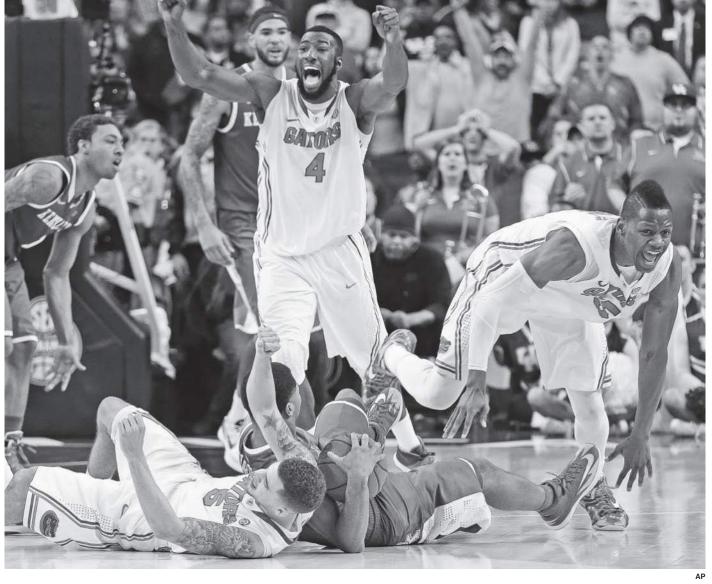
Four "is a very good line," insisted Ron Wellman, chair of the selection committee. "Last year, two of the Final Four teams came from the 4 line. That could very well happen again this year," he said.

Only Virginia, which wrapped up the ACC tournament Sunday to back up its regular-season title, seemed to get a significant bump from the conference tournaments that put the final stamp on resumes before the start of March Madness.

Wellman said the Cavaliers earned the top seed over Michigan and Villanova, who were also in the mix.

Louisville never was.

Asked to explain the low seeding of the defending national champion that has won 12 of 13 and rolled through the AAC tournament, Wellman explained that, unlike years past, the committee looks at each team's entire



Florida center Patric Young (4) celebrates with Florida forward Will Yeguete (15) after the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Kentucky in the Championship round of the Southeastern Conference men's tournament, Sunday, March 16, 2014, in Atlanta. Florida won 61-60.

schedule, without special weight given to the last 10 games.

"We look at the total body of work, everything they did from November to March," he said. "Every time we scrubbed that seed, Louisville ended at the same place every time when compared to the people above them."

The people above them in the unforgiving Midwest region include top-seeded and undefeated Wichita State, No. 2 Michigan and No. 3 Duke. Yes, that's three of last year's Final Four teams. This season's national semifinals are April 5 in Arlington, Texas.

Michigan State and UCLA also won power conferences but weren't exactly rewarded.

"Our conference was terrific, and that is also part of what we have to feel good about entering the tournament," said Arizona's Sean Miller, whose team got the No. 1 seed out West despite losing to the Bruins.

Of course, the numbers are just that—numbers. The real drama starts now—with the filling of the brackets and the playing of the games. While the teams play for a trophy, the rest of the world has a shot at the \$1 billion Warren Buffett is offering for a perfect bracket.

Good luck with that one.

"There's more good teams and less great teams," said coach Bill Self of second-seeded Kansas. "The difference be-

tween a 2 seed and a 7 or 8 seed is as narrow as it's ever been."

The last four bubble teams in this year's draw were 12th-seeded North Carolina State and Xavier, who play in the First Four on Tuesday, and 11th-seeded Iowa and Tennessee, who play Wednesday.

Left out of the tournament was SMU of the AAC—a team almost all the experts had securely in the bracket.

But not the folks in the confer-

ence room, who couldn't overcome the Mustangs' strength of schedule: 129.

"When I saw Louisville, I kind of figured that they didn't have a lot of respect for our conference," said coach Larry Brown. "But we only can blame ourselves, that's the way I look at it."

The committee handed out only seven at-large bids to mid-majors after they took 11 in each of the last two seasons.

The Big 12 led all conferences with seven teams, though winning the conference didn't move Iowa State past the '3' line.

Meanwhile, Kansas lost to Iowa State in the semifinals but remained a 2 seed because of its ranking in the RPI—No. 3. The Jayhawks have to get through the first weekend without center Joel Embiid, out with a back injury, but could face a thirdround game against Mountain West champion New Mexico.

In the West, Arizona's second game could come against eighth-seeded Gonzaga, which lost its second game as a No. 1 seed last year, or No. 9 Oklahoma State, which has one of the nation's best players in Marcus Smart. The nation's top scorer, Doug McDermott (26.9 points per game), is on the other side of that bracket with No. 3 Creighton.

On Virginia's side of the East bracket is one team nobody wants to play come tournament time—No. 4 Michigan State, which hadn't won back-to-back games since late January, but strung three together to win the nation's second-toughest conference.

"You don't get many teams that are talented, have inside and outside, show toughness, are together, have great chemistry," coach Tom Izzo said. "I've said three times in my career that I thought we were good enough to get to a Final Four. I thought this team was next in line."

### Senden ends a 7-year victory drought

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—John Senden never imagined it would take more than seven years to win again. Even more surprising is how he

won the Valspar Championship.

Sunday at Innisbrook had all the trappings

all the trappings of a tournament that is survived more than it is won.

Robert Garrigus, who started the final round with the lead, hit a tee shot that bounced off a lawn chair and wound up next to a tree, leading to a double bogey. Kevin Na, playing in the final group, missed a 3-foot putt and made a double bogey during a meltdown at the end of his front nine.

Each mistake brought more players into the mix on the Copperhead course until at one point there were nine players separated by three shots with more than an hour to go and the treacherous "Snake Pit" stretch of three fearsome closing holes ahead.

Valspar But that's where Senden seized control—on the 16th hole, with

a shot into the trees.

In a three-way tie for the lead with Na and Scott Langley, Senden's tee shot was headed for a tiny forest when it smacked off a tree and left him an opening.

"I got a pretty good break there with hitting the tree and dropping straight down," he said. "Then I hit a really good second shot to get in some sort of position near the green. Walking up to the shot, I just felt like, 'OK, I need to hit a really good shot here to get this up-and-down and try to have a chance to do something down the stretch.'

"I thought it came out well," he said. "It disappeared. Amazing."

He chipped in from 70 feet for birdie to break the tie. He made a 20-foot birdie putt on the next hole to stretch his lead to two shots. And when he could hear Na made a birdie putt on the 17th hole behind him to cut the lead to one, the 42-year-old Australian hit one might have been his best putt of the day that didn't go in.

It was a 40-foot putt that went up a ridge and moved slightly to the right, and then went down the slope and sharply to the left. Senden hit it so well that he only had a few inches left to tap in for his par and a 1-under 70.

All that was left was to wait

to see if Na could make birdie and force a playoff.

Na caught a flier out of the first cut of rough with a pitching wedge to 40 feet, and the birdie putt didn't have a chance. He closed with a 72 to finish second, his best result on the PGA Tour since he won at Las Vegas at the end of 2011.

"I knew coming into today that I felt like if I shot par I had a chance to win," Na said. "If I break par, I felt like it was going to be a lock."

Senden finished at 7-under 277, the third straight event on the Florida swing where the winning score was single-digit under par. He wasn't thinking about all the perks that go along with winning, though he was clear on one thing—he won't have the week off the second week in April.

Senden earned a spot in the Masters, always the biggest major for Australians, even with Adam Scott winning last year.

He also locked up a berth in the PGA Championship, two World Golf Championships the rest of the year (at Firestone and Shanghai) and Kapalua to start next year. It's a good feeling for Senden, one that he had forgotten.

His only other PGA Tour win was in 2006 at the John Deere Classic. Senden capped off that year by winning the Australian Open at Royal Sydney.

"It's something that makes you believe more than you can get it done again, rather than just once and thinking back then in '06, 'Was it a flash in the pan?' I don't believe so," Senden said. "But now it makes me feel (validated) from the John Deere."

Scott Langley, hitting superb shots to account for the wind, didn't hit a green over the final four holes and still managed to save par on three of them. The one bogey on the 16th hole, when he went long of the green from the middle

of the fairway, proved costly.

Langley and David Hearn were the only players who shot par or better all four days. Langley closed with a 70 to finish alone in third.

Garrigus made two double bogeys on his way to a 41 on the back nine. He also went 26 holes without a birdie dating to the third round Saturday, when he led by as many as four shots. By the time he made birdie at No. 14, it was too late. Garrigus, now 0-4 when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead, closed with a 75. He tied for fourth with Will MacKenzie (69) and Luke Donald (70).

"I know what I'm not going to be doing next year—fishing," said Garrigus, who figures he caught three dozen large-mouth bass this week. "I'm going to bring a damn chain saw out to the place and cut a few trees down. I kept hitting it behind them all day. I just didn't get any breaks."

### PIC's Hafa Adai 5K draws Delta Air Lines' support



Delta Air Lines has come aboard as one of the sponsors for the PIC Saipan Hafa Adai 5K that will hit the road on April 26.

"Delta Air Lines is

pleased to sponsor the PIC's Hafa Adai 5K event which will benefit the Salvation Army. We encourage the community to partake in this worthy cause. This fun-filled occasion is a welcome addition to the many sporting events hosted by the PIC. We wish the organizers the best of luck," Delta Air Lines sales executive Chris A. Concepcion said.

Delta Air Lines has not only offered a round trip economy ticket to Japan as a raffle prize, but also has gone above and beyond by offering incentives to the first 50 finishers.

The first 50 finishers will receive Delta travel credit vouchers worth \$75.00 to



Delta Air Lines sales executive Chris A. Concepcion, left, presents the ceremonial round-trip ticket to Japan donation to PIC SEA director Glenn Policare for next month's PIC Hafa Adai 5K at the Delta Air Lines counter at the Saipan International Airport

\$300.00 off published fares to Asia and the U.S. Certain conditions apply.

"This is a great incentive for families and friends to join this amazing event," PIC operations and events manager

Dennis Tababa. "My whole family will be joining. I just hope they all finish in the Top 50 so we can go to Japan for a big discount."

The PIC Hafa Adai 5K will have par-

ticipants passing through four coloring stations along the 5K route. Volunteers will celebrate each participant's arrival with a splash of blue, yellow, pink or red colored cornstarch. This biodegradable and non-toxic mixture will have participants laughing all the way from station to station.

'We wanted to host an event where everyone could join. This amazing incentive prize from Delta is just one more reason to join," PIC SEA director Glenn Policare said

Entry forms are available at the PIC Front Desk and at Saipan Shell Stations. Entry fees are only \$10 and the first 500 paid entries will receive a free limited edition event shirt. Proceeds from the race will go to the CNMI Salvation Army.

For more information, email dennis. tababa@picsaipan.com or call 237-5147. (Saipan Tribune)

### Firearms expert testifies at Pistorius trial

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)— Months before he killed his girlfriend. Oscar Pistorius described how he drew his gun and went into "combat mode" after hearing the noise of a possible intruder at home, which turned out to be a laundry machine, a South African guns expert testified Monday at the athlete's murder trial.

Sean Rens, manager of the International Firearm Training Academy in Walkerville town, also said he had many conversations about firearms with Pistorius, who has been accused of murdering his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp. He said the double-amputee runner had "a great love and enthusiasm" for guns.

Rens said he met Pistorius in 2012 and trained in a gun range with him, and that Pistorius asked him to provide him with a revolver and was

also seeking to collect other guns. In one conversation, Pistorius described how he was startled by a noise at home and decided to clear the house by drawing his gun and checking rooms, according to Rens.

"He went into what we call 'code red' or combat mode," Rens said. "When he came to the source of the noise, it was the laundry or something."

Pistorius had tweeted about the incident in November 2012: "Nothing like getting home to hear the washing

machine on and thinking its an intruder to go into full combat recon mode into the pantry!"

The double-amputee runner says he killed Steenkamp by accident before dawn on Feb. 14, 2013, shooting her through a closed toilet door after mistaking her for an intruder in his home. Prosecutors say he killed her after an argument.

Steenkamp's mother, June, was in the Pretoria courtroom for a second time Monday. She also attended the first day of the trial on March 3.

### COMETS

From Page 28

the third off Justin Cangco and Zach Reyes' RBI singles.

### Comets II 15, Ol'Aces 9

Comets II earned its second win after neutralizing the Ol'Aces in the last four

The Ol'Aces got off to a good start,

scoring nine runs in the first two inthe Ol'Aces a 9-0 lead. The Ol'Aces nings, but failed to keep their mocollected two more unearned runs in mentum against Comets II pitchers the second for the promising lead after Alvin Hocog and Reid Teregeyo. The only one and a half innings. Ol'Aces bagged four runs in the first inning off C.J. Kaipat's two-run single against starting pitcher Ethan Somol

An eight-run bottom of the second kept Comets II in the game, as Somol made up for his struggles on the mound with a three-run triple to spark a rally. Comets I got three more earned runs and two off the Ol'Aces' defensive lapses.

Comets II continued its rebound in

the ensuing innings, as Hocog replaced Somol and gave up no hits in the third and fourth and the team scored seven runs in the last two innings. Teregeyo closed out for Comets II and struck out five of the Ol'Aces' six batters in the last two innings to complete the comefrom-behind win.

Meanwhile, in a make-up game last Tuesday, the Enforcers downed the IP&E Rockies, 9-5.

### SARALU

From Page 28

to post at least .400, as third placer Vincent Sablan of the Fielders earned .400 (6-for-15).

The Brewers' Tyrone Omar and Anthony Deleon Guerrero rounded out the Top 5 after posting .375 (6for-16) and .368 (7-for-19), respectively. The Fielders' Jared Sablan went 10-for-28 (.357) to occupy the No. 6 spot, while the Tigers' Rocco Reyes is at seventh place with his average of .353 (6-for-17).

Six other batters are tied for eighth to No. 13th place as they have identical batting averages of .333. Locked in a six-way standoff are the Brewers' Jun Rabauliman (7-for-21) and Diego Camacho (7-for-21), the Yankees' Brian Camacho (6-for-18), the North Starz' E.J. Tenorio (5-for-15), the Fielders' Brian McAlister (5-for-15), and the Tigers' Mark Toves (5-for-15).

and a two-run homer from Trevor Lie-

to. Lieto went on to hit back-to-back

homers against Somol and this time

brought two runners with him to give

Completing the batting leaders based on 15 or more times at bat are the Yankees' Jerome Delos Reves (.313/5-for-16); the Brewers' Byron Kaipat (.294/5-for-17); the Yankees' Greg Iskawa (.286/6-for-21); the Tigers' Ton Guerrero (.286/6-for-21); the Fielders' Zack Flores (.267/4-for-15); the D'9ers' Tim Guerrero (.250/4for-16), and the Yankees' Pay Alepuyo (.221/4-for-19).

In the pitching race, four share the top spot after earning similar 0.00 ERA. The Yankees' Manny Cabrera pitched 11 innings and gave up no earned runs to join the Tigers' Peter Lieto (10 innings), the North Starz's Dave Jones (9.2 innings), and the Fielders' Tony Benavente (seven innings) in the logjam.

The Brewers' Vince Cepeda is alone at the second spot with his 0.82 ERA off 11 innings pitched and one earned run, while the D'9ers Jeremy Lizama and the Yankees' Thomas Joab have identical 1.23 ERA after pitching 7.1 innings and allowing only one run. The Brewers' Leonard Sablan (seven innings, one run) earned 1.29 ERA to join the chart, along with the Yankees' Franco Flores (1.50/six innings pitched, one earned run) and Peter Tenorio (1.50/six innings pitched, one earned run).

Meanwhile the Fielders' Joe Palacios missed the pitching leaderboard, but leads in the strikeouts with his 24. Lieto is in close second with 23 strikeouts, while Cepeda rounded out the Top 3 with his 19.

In other categories, Omar is on top of the runs race with 11, two more than Saralu's total after the first round, while the Tigers' Jessie Yamagishi has the most doubles so far with four. In the RBIs, Saralu had 12 to pace the North Starz's Cedric Ada and the Fielders' Vincent Sablan, who gained six each.

ing of the 36th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim this Sunday in the waters off Saipan World Resort.

There will be five distances in the ocean swim with U8 swimmers joining the 600m race, the 9 to 10 group participating in the 1K swim, 11 to 12 in 1.3K, 13 to 14 in 2.5K, and 15 to 19 in 2.5K. The Sunday event is also open to adult swimmers and they can join either in the 1.3K or 2.5K races. Adult swimmers can enter the 20 to 29 age group, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, and over 60. Registration fees are only \$20, inclusive of entry to awards banquet, which will be held at Naked Fish.

at saipanswimclub@gmail.com or call 234-5749.

### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### **NBA STANDINGS**

28

#### **EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division**

Brooklyn New York Boston Philadelphia	33 27 22 15	31 40 45 51	.516 .403 .328 .227	3½ 11 16 22½
Southeast Div x-Miami Washington Charlotte Atlanta Orlando	45 35 33 29 19	19 31 34 35 48	.703 .530 .493 .453	- 11 13½ 16 27½
Central Divisi x-Indiana Chicago Cleveland Detroit Milwaukee	49 37 26 25 13	17 29 41 41 54	.742 .561 .388 .379 .194	- 12 23½ 24 36½
Southwest Di San Antonio Houston Dallas Memphis New Orleans		16 22 27 27 27 39	.758 .667 .597 .591 .409	- 6 10½ 11 23
Northwest Di Oklahoma City Portland Minnesota	48 43	18 24 32	.727 .642 .508	- 5½ 14½
Denver Utah	33 29 22	37 45	.439 .328	19 26½

x-clinched playoff spot

Kevin Na (300) \$615 600

Sacramento

#### **VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES**

.343

70-68-68-72-278

241/2

38 23

PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP) - Scores Sunday from the Valspar Championship, a \$5.7 million U.S. PGA Tour event on the 7,340-yard, par-71 Copperhead Course at Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club, Copperhead Course

#### **FINAL** John Senden (500), \$1,026,000

Scott Langley (190), \$387,600 Luke Donald (115), \$235,600 Robert Garrigus (115), \$235,600 Will MacKenzie (115), \$235,600 George McNeill (90), \$190,950 Graham DeLaet (73), \$148,200 Matt Every (73), \$148,200 David Hearn (73), \$148,200 Justin Rose (73), \$148,200 Sang-Moon Bae (55), \$94,050 Jason Dufner (55), \$94,050 Bill Haas (55), \$94,050 Chesson Hadley (55), \$94,050 Charles Howell III (55), \$94,050 Jim Furvk (49), \$64,068 Carl Pettersson (49), \$64,068 Jordan Spieth (49), \$64,068 Ryo Ishikawa (43), \$42,587 Cameron Tringale (43), \$42,587 Brian Harman (43), \$42,587 Charley Hoffman (43), \$42,587 Morgan Hoffmann (43), \$42,58 Russell Knox (43), \$42,587 Robert Allenby (37) \$31 540 nathan Byrd (37), \$31,540 Erik Compton (37), \$31,540 Ben Crane (37), \$31,540 Justin Hicks (37) \$31 540 John Merrick (37), \$31,540 Chad Collins (31), \$23,940 Harris English (31), \$23,940 James Hahn (31), \$23,940 Matt Kuchar (31), \$23,940 Kevin Streelman (31), \$23,940 Y.E. Yang (31), \$23,940 Woody Austin (23), \$15,892 Greg Chalmers (23), \$15,892 K.J. Choi (23), \$15.892 Ben Curtis (23), \$15,892 Tommy Gainey (23), \$15,892 Peter Hanson (23) \$15,892 Pat Perez (23), \$15,892 Nicholas Thompson (23), \$15.892 James Driscoll (16), \$13,053 J.B. Holmes (16), \$13,053 Justin Leonard (16) \$13,053 Michael Putnam (16), \$13,053 Stuart Appleby (10) \$12 426 Jerry Kelly (10), \$12,426 D.H. Lee (10), \$12,426 David Lingmerth (10), \$12,426 Brandt Snedeker (10), \$12,426 Michael Thompson (10), \$12,426 Jason Bohn (4), \$11,742 Padraig Harrington (4), \$11,742 Paul Govdos (1), \$11,229 Bory Sabbatini (1) \$11 229 Sean O'Hair (1) \$10 944

71-72-67-70-280 73-70-68-69-280 73-71-67-70-281 75-68-71-68-282 71-70-70-71-282 69-70-71-72-282 71-68-69-74-282 72-73-71-67-283 72-73-68-70-283 69-73-72-69-283 71-70-74-68-283 74-68-68-73–283 71-69-71-73-284 71-70-71-72-284 73-71-67-73-284 71-70-71-72-284 74-71-70-70-285 71-70-73-71-285 70-72-67-76-285 70-73-70-72-285 73-70-70-72-285 73-71-70-72-286 72-73-72-69-286 70-72-71-73-286 72-72-70-72-286 73-71-69-74-287 69-74-70-74-287 73-69-71-74-287 73-72-70-72-287 71-71-74-72-288 72-72-69-75-288 69-72-75-288 75-70-69-74-288 68-71-77-72-288 76-69-69-74-288 73-70-68-78-289 71-74-71-73-289 71-71-76-289 71-73-74-72-290 71-74-73-72-290 76-68-71-75-290 74-70-70-76—290 73-72-71-74-290 72-73-71-74-290 72-69-72-77-290 71-74-73-73-291 69-73-76-73-291 75-70-72-74-291 75-69-73-75-292 74-70-71-77-292 70-72-72-78-292

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Mallinger (1), \$10,830

73-71-74-78-296

71-73-74-80-298

### 8 SWIM

From Page 28

"We are expecting to have 150 swimmers with half of them from offisland," SSC head coach Jacoby Winkfield said in an email to Saipan Tribune.

Tsunami Guam ruled the 2013 edition of the meet after collecting 1,220 points from the individual races. Tsunami Saipan finished second with its 885 points, while SSC came in at third place after gaining 594 points. Points are given based on how swimmers from each club finished the race. Nine points are given to the race winner, 7 to second, and 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 to the No. 3 to 8 finishers.

Kwajalein Swim Club debuted in

the meet last year and is hoping to have a better finish after occupying the fifth spot (307.5 points) behind fourth placer Manukai (505.5), while Palau is making a comeback in the SSC-hosted tournament after joining the event more than a decade ago.

Besides the overall championship, participants in the weekend competition will also vie for the High-Point awards. The Top 3 in each age group (boys and girls 'U8, 9 to 10, 11 to 12, 13 to 14, 15 to 16, and Open) will get High-Point trophies, while the No. 1 to 8 finishers in each races will receive ribbons.

Six events will be held in the Friday's opener—the 200m freestyle (all ages), 1,500m free (13-and-over), 100m breaststroke (all), 100m butterfly

(all), 200m backstroke (11-and-over), and 50m backstroke (all).

For the second and last day of the tournament, races are divided into two sessions. The morning session will have the 50m butterfly, 800m free, 400m individual medley, 100m back, 200m breaststroke, 100m freestyle, and 200m medley relay. For the afternoon session, the 50m breaststroke will take place first, followed by 200m butterfly, 400m and 50m freestyle, 200m IM, and 200m freestyle relay. Saturday swims will start at 8:15am and 2pm, while Friday's session will begin at 3:10pm.

### **Ocean swim Sunday**

The host club will complete the weekend competition with the stag-

For more information, contact SSC

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014 **27** 

# Sun Palace Singles and Doubles Badminton Tournament 2014

### PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Sam Jones stretches for a shot.



Emily Vargas steps back for a return, while teammate Roxe Lazaro stands by.



Gigi Zapanta misses her target.



Nicole Malasarte leans back for a return during her and Patricia Abantao's match over Roxe Laxaro and Emily Vargas.





Chris Hilario goes for a backhand return.



Jerry Hibi reaches in for a shot.



Tina Lee brings down her racket after a return to Gigi Zapanta.



Patricia Abante and Nicole Malasarte wait for the shuttlecock at the backcourt.



Games are all equal; seedings are not

PAGE 24



got the third run off a Comets I

The Enforcers notched the two runs with only one out and

runners on first and second.

Troy Laniyo was next at bat for

the Enforcers and came up with an empty swing on his third

and last attempt for the second

out. Peter Litulumar suffered the same fate at the hands of

Frederick to end the Enforcers'

chances of sending the game

While Comets I had to with-

Starting pitcher Arby Yaguel

and reliever Max Pangelinan

combined for a two-hitter to

blank the Little Legals. Yaguel

pitched five innings and struck

out seven batters. The Little Le-

gals got the lone hit on Yaguel

at the bottom of the sixth in-

ning with Miku Torres making

a single before getting stranded,

as the Falcons pitcher struck out

Pangelinan started the bottom

of the sixth with a strikeout and

though he gave up a single to

the Little Legals' second batter

two more batters.

stand the Enforcers' rally, the

Falcons were never threatened en route to keeping their per-

into extra inning.

miscue in the fifth inning.

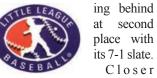
**28** TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Comets I, Falcons keep lofty spots

roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

efending champions Falcons remained unbeaten, while Comets I bounced back to keep their hold to the Top 2 spots in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League.

The Falcons shut out the Little Legals, 4-0, in last Saturday's final game at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, while Comets I nosed out the JPO Enforcers in the second match, 6-5. The Falcons improved to a 7-0 record to lead the 15-team field, while the Comets I is lurk-



Francisco Frederick delivered two straight strikeouts to lift Comets I to the close win. Frederick came in for Vincent Nakamura in the fourth inning with Comets I on top, 5-2. He started his shift with three walks and only two strikeouts in the first two innings and then gave up three hits at the bottom of the sixth. Rikko Lizama and Dennis Cabrera had back-to-back singles for the Enforcers and both scored off Frederick and Jessie Taitano's errors to move JPO within one, 6-5. The Enforcers



Comets I's Francisco Frederick catches a throw from home plate during their Major division game against the JPO Enforcers last Saturday in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

#### and walked the third with two outs, he quickly wrapped up the match with another strike. Besides teaming up with Pan-

gelinan in shutting down the Little Legals, Yaguel also contributed on the Falcons' offense, as he blasted a two-run single at the top of the third. The Falcons recorded their two runs, too, in

> See **COMETS** on Page 26

### 8 swim clubs to compete in SSC international meet



ROSELYN B. MONROYO Swimmers from Guam, Saipan, and the Marshall Islands get ready at the starting block during the 50m freestyle swim in last year's SSC international meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Eight clubs will battle for the cham-

pionships in the 2014 Saipan Swim Club International Meet this weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Joining the host in the twoday tournament are Guam's Anderson Marlins, Manhoben Swim Club, Manukai Athletic Club, and Tsunami Swim Club, the Marshall Islands' Kwajalein Swim Club, a group from Palau, and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan.

See 8 SWIM on Page 26

### Saralu leads batting race in SBL



The Brewers' Nokki Saralu, seen here walking to join his teammates celebration, leads the batting race in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The Brewers' Nokki Saralu is alone at the top of the batting race in the 2014

Saipan Baseball League after last Friday's game at the Francisco 'Tan Ko'' Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers' third baseman went 10-for-18 at bat in the team's five wins in as many games and is the only batter to average at least .500 with his .556. Saralu leads 19 other batters, including the secondrunning Phil Celis of the Tigers. Celis has a .412 average off a 7-for-17 performance at the plate and is one of the only two

See SARALU on Page 26